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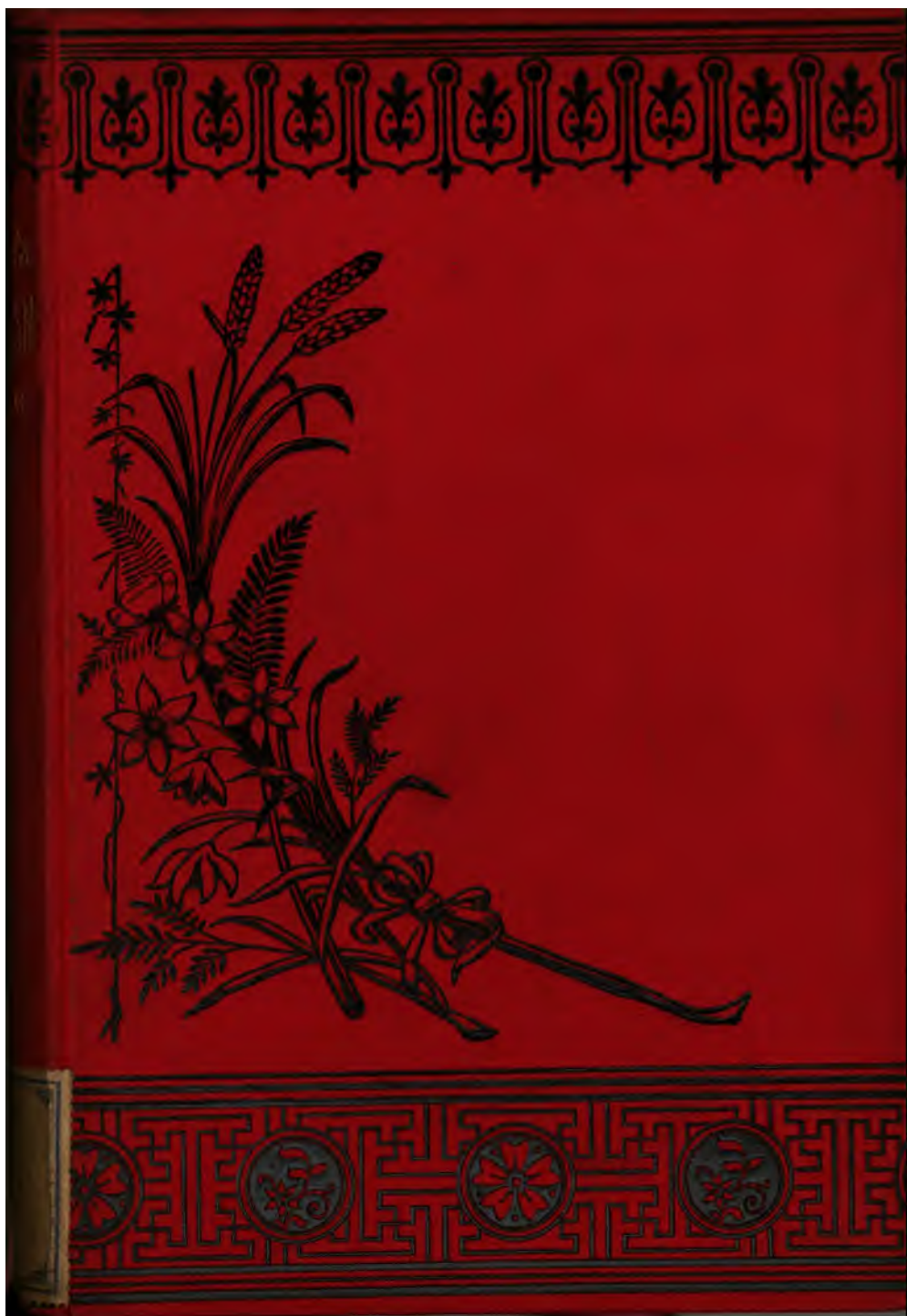
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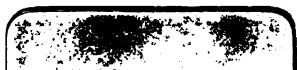
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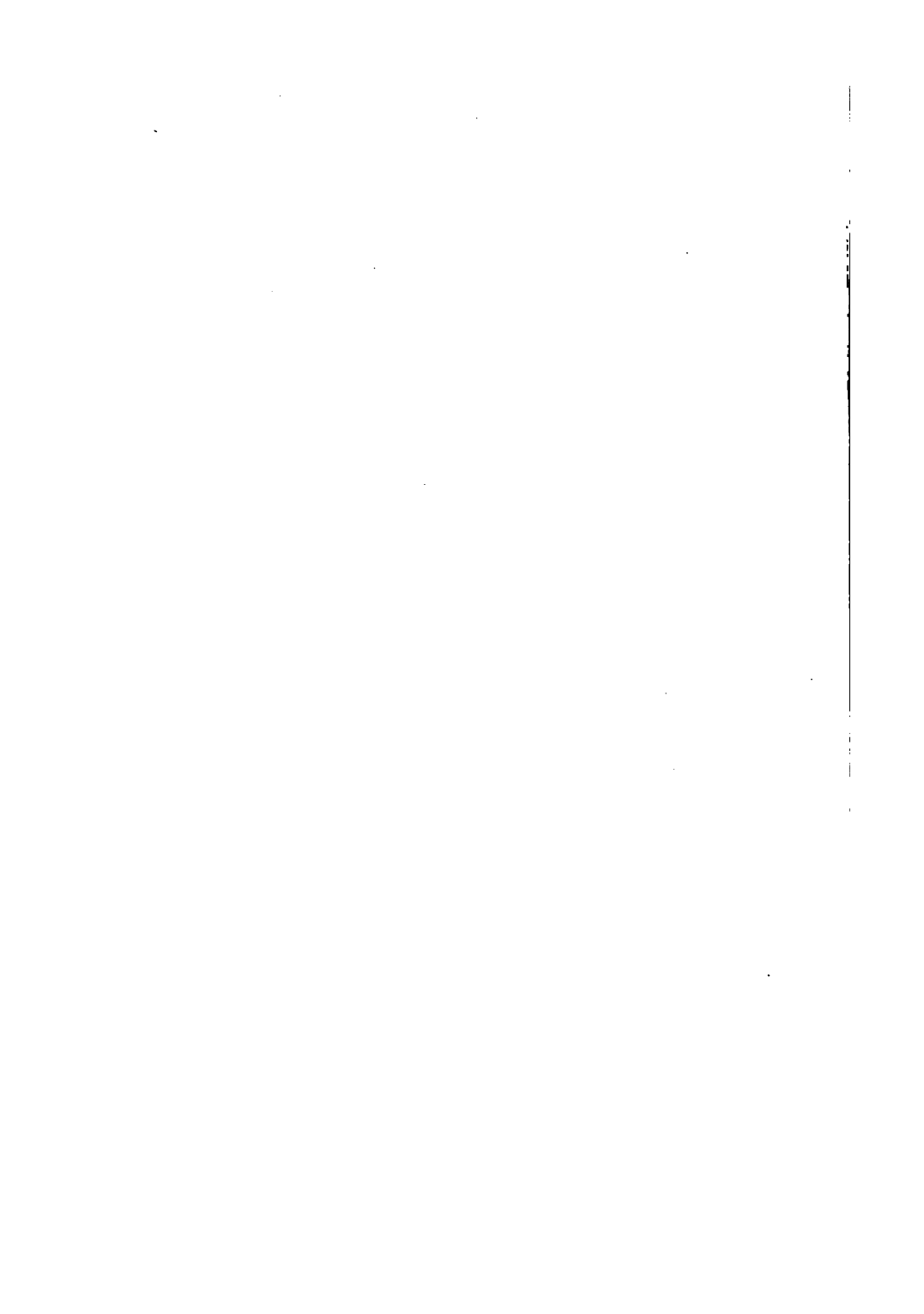
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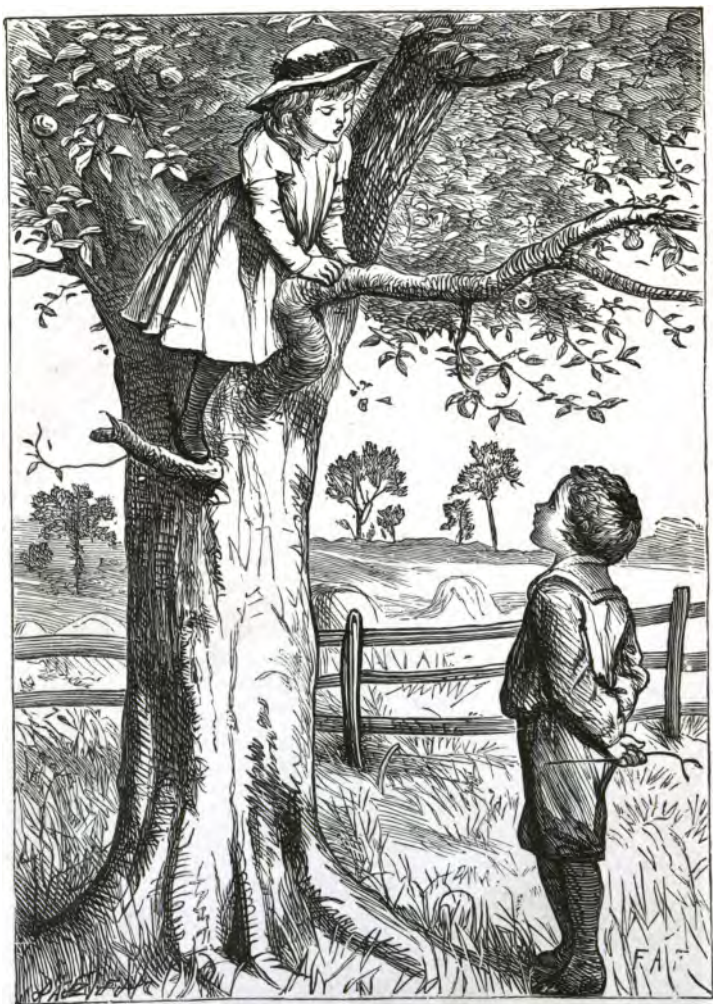
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HARRY'S HEROISM.

BY

THOMAS BURN.

LONDON:

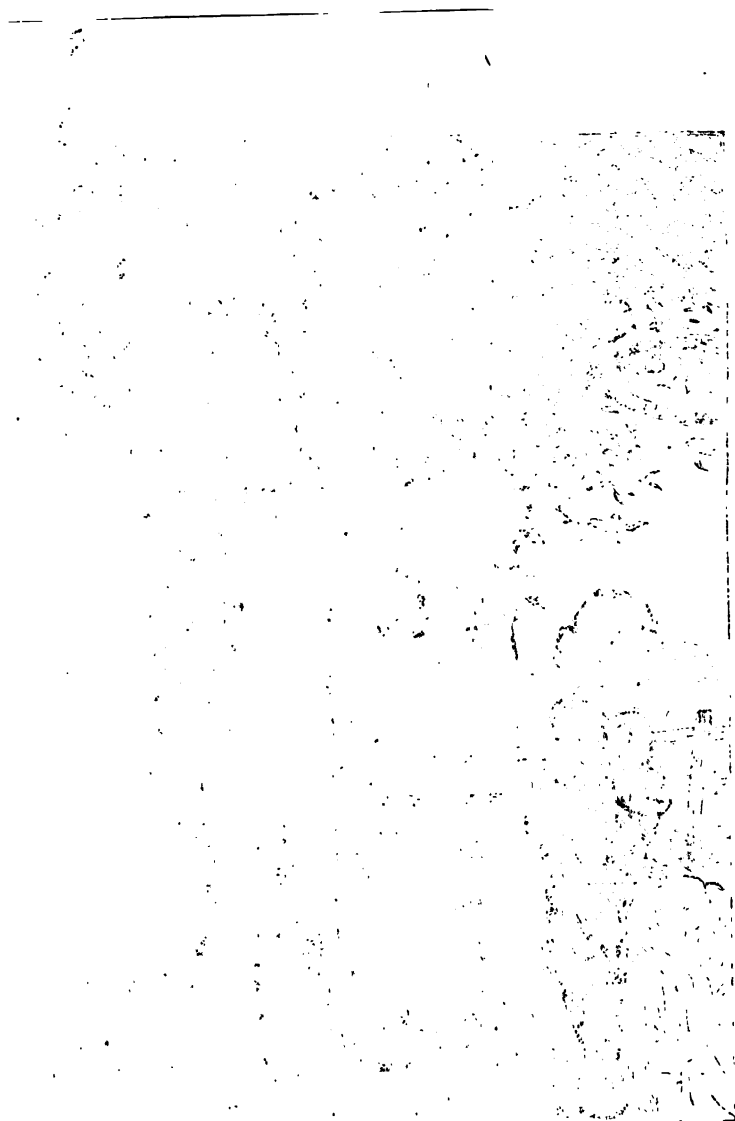
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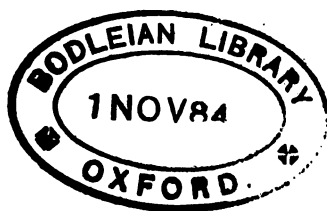
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PREFACE.



IT is with considerable diffidence that I place before the public this production from my pen ; but I cherish the hope that the mistakes which occur will receive generous treatment, as this is my first attempt to write a book. Having regard to the fact that there are many able authors, men who have given their best efforts to interest and instruct mankind, it may be considered bold of a young author to enter the ranks ; but when it is remembered that no one possesses a monopoly of thought, it is at once evident that there is room for those who aspire to aid in the good work. That no person may have cause to regret having become acquainted with this simple story, is the wish of the author.

One reason which has induced me thus to record some of the aims and achievements of Harry, is to bear testimony to the assistance derived from those who are no more, and to keep their 'memory green' as days and years roll on. The

good we do is not apparent in our lifetime; but, when we have passed to our reward, others are stimulated by our actions, and are led to go and do likewise. Words of cheer and of consolation fall pleasantly upon the ear, and inspire the heart long after they have been spoken. Loving deeds make impressions which are not soon effaced.

Another inducement to me to write was the knowledge of the pleasurable feelings which I had often experienced from perusing a book. Many a half-hour have I spent revelling amidst the pages of some book written by an author of renown, and it occurred to me that I ought to endeavour to add my quota to the stock of literature, and so give pleasure and delight to some other person. With confidence in the judgment of the public, I leave my work with it.

THOS. BURN.

HARRY'S HEROISM.

PART I.

FEW boys had less aids to progress than the subject of this narrative, Harry Wilson; but what was denied to him in other ways was more than compensated for by his possessing a sturdy independence of spirit, a courage which boldly attacked difficulties, a determination of character which overcame every obstacle, and withal a kind, generous, and loving disposition, which made him a general favourite with his schoolmates. In early life Harry had the misfortune to lose his father, and though this was an irreparable loss, yet in his mother he had one who had a tender regard for him, and sought to inculcate in his young mind those truths which would fit him to live and prepare him to die; and the impressions made were not readily forgotten by him: the good seed sown in childhood was to bear fruit in manhood.

Whilst, however, Harry's mother was a noble-minded woman, it was necessary for her to work diligently in order to obtain the means necessary for the support of the family, consisting of two daughters beside Harry. It is often very difficult to meet all the demands of the household when the

'bread-winner' is removed, but where there is honest endeavour to discharge the obligations it is in some cases not impossible to do so. Mrs. Wilson exemplified this. Though her earnings were limited, yet she did not allow her expenses to exceed her income; hence she was enabled to succeed in the world. Harry would gladly have assisted his mother, but he was too young to work, and Mrs. Wilson knew it was important that her son should have a good education, and accordingly she sent him regularly to school. Mrs. Wilson was aware that in the battle of life to be well-educated was equivalent to having a fortune, and that youth is the proper time to learn; that the mind is then free, and can readily receive instruction and be guided in the complex problems to be solved by those who would acquire knowledge.

Harry was very apt at learning, and, unlike many other boys, had a real pleasure in attending school; hence he plodded steadily along, and gave complete satisfaction to the master, who was confident of him passing with credit the examination by Her Majesty's Inspector. Spelling and arithmetic were what he excelled in. In mental arithmetic, which to many boys is puzzling, Harry achieved great success. No little fun is frequently caused by the replies made in an exercise of this description. Six times six have been said to be twelve, and three times three six, and the query, 'If two herrings cost three halfpence, how many could be bought for a shilling?' has received an answer which would surprise a fishmonger if he were required to give such a number for the amount. There is no doubt, however, that it is bracing to the mind to take part in a lesson in mental arithmetic. Powers are brought into operation which would otherwise lie dor-

mant, and though mistakes which are ludicrous are often made, yet these become less frequent as they are pointed out. In the competition amongst a class of boys ardour is aroused, and a fair degree of proficiency results. Having regard to the fact that in the affairs of life many calculations are required to be made in the mind, it would appear desirable that youths should be exercised in mental arithmetic to a greater extent than they are. Questions of a simple character are to some people difficult, especially if pencil and paper are not at hand. Greater despatch is obtained in various transactions when figures can be readily dealt with in the mind. A bricklayer or carpenter, for instance, should be able by mental calculation to tell how much a slight addition to or alteration of any work will cost. Time which is valuable is thus saved.

Harry could, however, enjoy himself when the school was released during the forenoon for a quarter of an hour's recreation. In the summer-time cricket was his delight, and he entered into the game with all the zest he could command. He played steadily, thus guarding the wickets, but he never made a large score. He did not possess sufficient muscular power to drive the ball far, nor had he the requisite skill to swing the 'willow' and despatch the ball in an aerial flight. There was, however, an attention given to what was transpiring, and in the field Harry proved himself to be a good assistant. He was expert in catching the ball and despatching it to the wicket-keeper. He brought his judgment to bear, the distance requiring to be traversed before the ball was lodged at the right point being quickly measured.

If Harry enjoyed a game at cricket, he liked also to try his

skill at marbles. A fine day, a level piece of ground, a bag of marbles, a good-natured comrade or two, and he could pass the time allowed for recreation in an agreeable manner. No one but a boy knows how a small stock of marbles is prized. Again and again each marble is counted, and it is a question of doubt whether the man who has thousands of pounds in the bank derives more satisfaction from the fact than the boy who possesses a plentiful supply of marbles. A treasure is owned which is highly esteemed, and it is felt to be a great loss if by any means the stock should become reduced. Quarrels not infrequently occur amongst boys in regard to marbles, and the differences are often settled by a resort to fists. A ring is formed, and after the combatants have pommelled each other soundly they forget their grievances, and become friends as before.

Harry gained favour in the school, and as he gave promise of unusual intelligence the Vicar arranged to instruct him and another youth in the Latin tongue for half an hour each day. Harry progressed in learning the language, though, like most other boys, he did not give that attention it was desirable he should to the lesson which he was required to prepare at night; especially was this the case in the summer-time, when the nights were long. He preferred to join in a game at ball or some other innocent recreation, and as a consequence the lesson was often hurriedly learnt. Still he made advancement, and soon became able to translate. It was an agreeable change to leave the school with its hum, the inevitable result of having a number of children together, and walk down to the Vicarage, where, in the solitude of the study, the lesson was rehearsed. Harry felt glad to have the privilege which

had been granted him. It was pleasant to enter a quiet room, made comfortable with carpet, and possessing book-cases amply stored with 'food for the mind;' and in addition the Vicar was such a kind and gentle man, so lovable in his disposition, so wishful to benefit everyone, so venerable in appearance, and in manner so considerate, that it was gratifying to be in his presence and be guided by him into the mysteries of the Latin tongue. He pointed out the errors made, required the correct pronunciation of each word, and the declension of the verbs.

Though Latin has ceased to be spoken, yet there is a great advantage in knowing the derivations of many of the words found in the English language. Those people who have a knowledge of Latin are enabled to use the words which correctly describe what they wish to say. Having the basis on which the words are founded in mind, they can express themselves properly. They have no difficulty in speaking or writing, as they have a rich and varied vocabulary, and can bring it into use when occasion requires it. A Latin scholar is accordingly in possession of a power not enjoyed by those who merely know the English tongue. A youth whose future profession is to be that of a chemist or doctor should endeavour to become acquainted with Latin, as many prescriptions are written in that language, and he will find that he will have to make frequent reference to the language in describing the various ailments which are brought under his notice. To those who would seek to gain any distinction in mental culture it is an invaluable aid to understand Latin.

By instructions received from the Vicar, Harry gave promise of attaining a knowledge of Latin; but in after-life he did not

strive to increase his stock, hence he did not become so proficient as he might otherwise have done. From what he had learnt, however, he was conscious of a freedom in the use of many words which owe their origin to the Latin language. Sometimes the lesson was rehearsed in the drawing-room or breakfast-room of the Vicarage, and the Vicar's daughter was present, and when Harry or his companion became perplexed or stumbled in pronunciation a pleasant smile would overshadow her countenance. When the exercise was over an adjournment was made to the lawn in summer-time, and the grass was cut by the hand-mowing machine. This manual labour was invigorating to the system, and revived the mind after being exhausted by the Latin lesson. It is desirable to undertake a duty which involves the movement of the body when the mind has been engaged for a time. The energies are renewed, and the normal condition is regained.

It will have been gathered that Harry was diligently studying at school, as also making progress in learning Latin. He was under the tuition of different masters; some who freely used the cane, and others who were more niggardly in this respect. One master punished the pupils by requiring them to remain after school-hours and write out or commit to memory a number of lines of poetry or prose. To be compelled to stay behind and do additional work is in some cases as great a deterrent from transgression as being caned soundly. Few boys like to be kept in school after others have left. On one occasion Harry had a singular experience of the punishment involved by being 'caned.' He had previously remarked to some other boys that if the schoolmaster ventured to strike him over the hand with the cane he would close his fingers,

and hold the cane in his grasp. This scheme having come to the schoolmaster's ears, he took steps to defeat it; hence, after striking the palm of the hand, he allowed the cane to descend, and brought it upwards across the knuckles. This was more than Harry expected, and he wisely determined that he would not again endeavour to retain the cane. Harry and the master got along more smoothly after this little episode.

If a schoolmaster is wishful to gain the love and respect of his scholars he cannot do it in a better way than in joining in their games when they are taking recreation, and maintaining in school a firm discipline. Let the scholars know that the master can appreciate the desire for relaxation from study, is ready to be amongst them and to assist them in their games, but that in school strict attention and order must be kept, and there will be every probability that progress will be assured and goodwill be the ruling principle of each member of the school.

On Saturday afternoons Harry often went for long walks by the side of the river, and when there was not much water running, as was often the case in summer-time, he went close to the river's edge and gathered small stones from its bed, or climbed from rock to rock. When he grew tired of this he went through the shrubbery which grew on the banks of the river, and having gained the summit he had a good view of the surrounding country. Verdant fields with cattle and sheep browsing, and stone walls which constituted the boundary, lent picturesqueness to the scene. Farther away, a great Hall, standing alone in solitude, rose before his vision; whilst at the river's brink a quaint old mill and the river itself,

spanned by a beautiful bridge, made the prospect to be one of pleasure and delight.

Who would not have envied Harry under circumstances like these? All around conspired to give joy. The quiet rippling of the water ; the rich foliage of the trees and verdure of the bushes and plants ; the birds warbling ; the sun shining, and a cloudless sky ; and there was a veritable paradise, or at any rate a close resemblance to one. What a contrast to the appearance in mid-winter, when the boughs of the trees were standing out in all their barrenness unless covered with snow ; the river crusted over with the frost, and quietude reigning supreme ! Time brings many changes, and under the influence of the sun all becomes radiant—animation abounds on every hand, and cheerfulness is triumphant.

To one who is buoyant in disposition, who knows nothing of care and seeks only to secure happiness, it is pleasant to walk by the side of a river amidst overhanging trees on a summer's day. Certainly Harry enjoyed himself as he strolled about, or paused to drink in the scene in all its varied loveliness. Then, in the autumn he wandered amongst the trees and bushes, ever and anon finding new sources of delight. Whenever he felt inclined for a long walk, he went along the banks by one route and returned by another ; and he could hear the plash of the water as the river wound its way onward to the ocean. How invigorating these rambles ! how pleasing the impressions ! Rural scenery has its charms. Who would not wish to have his lot cast in such a situation as that which has been described ?

But we must not linger, agreeable though it may be to tell

of the joys experienced by those who live near to a charming river. It is probable that the reader will have been wondering in what Harry's heroism consisted. As, however, the story progresses, it will be gleaned that it was in bravely following that which is good and right, in being a staunch teetotaler amidst temptation, and in aiding the oppressed. There are many heroes beside those who are found on the field of battle. Those who, having ascertained what is their duty, do it, regardless of the consequences. Those who boldly stand by the truth, who resolutely oppose anything calculated to injure or degrade man, and who strive to carry out the royal law—to do unto others as they would that others should do to them—are heroes entitled to honour. These win admiration. The sympathy of all right-thinking men is aroused, and they do not withhold their approval of such conduct. Those who act as their conscience directs them enjoy the satisfaction which necessarily results. It were well if we had more men of principle to-day—men who dare to do right, who are not to be led by every plea advanced, and are not as pliable as the willow. These men would regenerate society, and give stability to commerce.

Harry was a Band of Hope boy, and though his introduction to Temperance principles was somewhat strange, yet he kept the pledge for a number of years. He was very anxious to attend a tea-meeting which was to be held, and to which only those who were members of the Band of Hope were invited; and as he was not yet enrolled the difficulty could only be overcome in one way, and that was by his signing the pledge. Harry undertook to do this, and accordingly was permitted to attend the tea-meeting. It might have been thought that

the pledge taken under the circumstances existing in the case in question would not have been honoured afterwards ; but Harry faithfully refrained from breaking it. Young though he was, he knew the decision which had been made ; he was conscious of what was required of him, and he was resolved not to betray his trust ; besides, he looked with dread upon the condition of those who drink to excess—who are so indulgent that they frequently become unable to control themselves. How depressing is the sight of a drunken man ! To behold intelligence prostrated by drink is indeed a sad and mournful spectacle. It cannot but be deplored. The remedy is to appeal to men to give up drink ; to educate them, to inculcate godly truths, and so raise the status of the masses.

Throughout the winter Band of Hope meetings were held, at which books for reading were circulated ; occasion was also taken at these gatherings to teach suitable hymns and melodies. Other meetings were held, at which the advocates of Temperance gave addresses and pledges were obtained. By this means the desire to remain faithful to the cause was strengthened. It was comparatively easy to keep right. Temptations there were, without doubt, but they were withstood, for if a boy really determines that he will not break the pledge, he has a certain pride in remaining firm. Having come to a decision, he will not soon turn aside from the course he has chosen. Unless pressure be brought to bear, there is every probability of him maintaining a steady adherence to the cause for at least a term of years. It is very gratifying when a boy who has signed the pledge keeps it, as he is likely to become a useful man. 'Band of Hope,' as applied to a league composed of young teetotalers, is an appropriate title. These

young people are truly the hope of the nation. Drunkenness is the vice to which the English people are most addicted; hence it may be expected that there will be an improvement in this respect when the young who have been trained to sobriety are called to take their part in the battle of life. That men should drink when they are not thirsty, is, to say the least, surprising; and to know that men will drink until they become helplessly drunk, indicates that many are wanting in common-sense and self-respect. Each individual has an influence, hence those who hold Temperance principles should not hesitate to show by their conduct to which party they belong. Many a faltering brother may by this be established. There should be a clear and distinct determination that, as far as possible, the dignified and noble cause of Temperance shall not suffer by the indifference of its followers.

Annually there was a great Temperance demonstration. A band of music was in attendance, a tent was rigged up in which tea was served, and at night a meeting was held for the furtherance of the cause. These gatherings acted as an inspiration to warfare in the ranks of the unconvinced, and were a grand reunion of the brave and faithful who were seeking to induce their fellow-men to embrace the blessings and benefits they themselves enjoyed. Congratulations were rife on the victories achieved, and hearty goodwill pervaded the whole assembly.

Harry was very punctual in his attendance at the Sunday-school, and gained favour with his teacher. Many pleasant afternoons were spent, and advancement was made by Harry in learning the Scriptures. Bibles and other books were given as rewards, and occasionally illuminated cards, with suitable

texts, were dispensed. When the lesson was over, an interesting portion of a book was read, and the minds of the young people were imbued with noble thoughts. One story Harry was much impressed with. It must have been founded on those words of the Saviour: 'Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.' The tale was to the effect that admittance was gained through an open gate to a beautiful and pleasant roadway, on either side of which were overhanging trees in which birds were warbling sweet songs. Flowers and shrubs were growing in rich profusion, and the surroundings were such as to induce the traveller to proceed. A goodly number of people were wending their way onward, and apparently enjoying themselves. After a time the scene changed. The road became rough and stony, briars and thorns made their appearance, and frequently the traveller was tripped up and injured. All around was cheerless and uninviting. Looming in the distance was a yawning chasm, into which the traveller would certainly fall and perish if he did not retrace his steps. Some of those who were proceeding observed their danger and hastily returned, but others were indifferent of their fate and went forward, the result being that they were dashed to pieces. The strait gate and narrow way are represented by a road which at the commencement was difficult to walk upon, but, after a time, it becomes broader, and travellers can proceed along it with perfect ease. There are a number of people hastening towards a glorious city beyond. At times, in the jubilation of their

hearts, they break forth in singing hymns, and are thereby inspired to prosecute their journey. Brightness and beauty are everywhere apparent ; all that will in any way conduce to happiness is there. Before them, written, as it were, in letters of gold, are the words : ' Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.' After a while some of the number disappear ; they have reached the city ; they have gained their reward. They entered through the strait gate on to the narrow way, and though they had to pass through many vicissitudes, they were resolved not to turn aside, and now they enjoy the glories reserved for them. They are in unbounded raptures ; unstinted pleasures are experienced by them.

Stories similar to the one of which particulars have been given, were willingly listened to by the scholars, and, as the teacher was held in high esteem, there was an additional reason why every attention was paid to what was said. Harry had every reason to have a regard for his teacher, for many times when he went to the Hall on an errand, a word of encouragement was addressed to him, and from the folds of her dress the teacher would produce a russet apple for Harry to eat. Pleasant impressions were thus made, and it was improbable that they would soon be effaced. Kind words and kind actions are not easily forgotten ; they cheer the mind and gladden the heart for a long time. By attending Sabbath-school Harry gained an acquaintance with many parts of the Bible. His mind being free and unfettered, he could apply himself to his lesson. Not alone was it well that he should be versed in Holy Writ, but by that means he was likely to be benefited in after-life. The Scriptures being the one rule of

life, he who learns most about them becomes possessed of true knowledge.

The basis on which rests all that is right and good is found in the Bible; hence if anyone would achieve distinction for nobility of character, it must be by regulating his course of conduct by what he finds written in that blessed Book. The person who seeks to be guided by the Scriptures is assured of at least an honourable career. The Bible is a chart by aid of which the voyage of life can be safely made; hence the importance of young people being instructed in the truths which adorn this Book of books. If what is taught in the Sabbath-school be not forgotten—and it is improbable that it will—the character will be moulded, and satisfaction of no doubtful import be the result. Vigour of thought, purity of heart, courage of principle, are each and all the outcome of the study of the Bible; and such are, doubtless, constituents of the ideal man. If these desirable attainments be aimed at by the young, they know how they may be realized. That there should be a decided resolution to win them is as evident as that their possession will tend to win the respect of all classes. A young person is frequently at a loss to know how he can obtain such a position as shall at once give him honour and true regard amongst those with whom he associates. It may be secured by his seeking to emulate all the virtues which are so clearly expressed in the Bible. If the divine standard found therein be fully acknowledged, and as earnestly sought after, those people with whom the individual is brought into contact will accord to him their esteem.

It has been said that the boy is a miniature man, hence it is not surprising that Harry took an interest in politics. His

views were as decided as those of any partisan, and he was anxious that the candidate whose claims he approved should be returned when the election for Parliamentary representation took place. There was considerable stir on such occasions, especially as the ballot was not yet introduced, and the supporters of the rival parties could know how the polling was progressing. The tenantry of some great lord or squire frequently were advised for whom they should vote, and, on the day of the election, they were taken in the carriages of their landlord to the polling-booths. Recently, however, there has been more freedom amongst the electors, hence, relying on the secrecy of the ballot, many voters have declined to say which candidate they favoured with their vote. This is as it should be. Let everyone vote as he thinks right.

An appeal was made to the country, and, as the election drew nigh, great activity was displayed. Every exertion was made by the rival parties, and each was confident of success. At length the decisive day arrived, and at noon Harry wended his way to the station to ascertain if there were any tidings. It was reported that his favourite candidate was ahead in votes, and so, with cap bedecked with paper of the colour by which the party was recognised, Harry returned along with other comrades to school. Being late, he was called upon to give an explanation, and this not being considered satisfactory by the master, he evidently not being a politician, Harry was severely chastised. The punishment meted out did not, however, eradicate all political sympathies, and Harry looked forward to the day when he should be a strong supporter of one of the great parties which control the affairs of the State.

He even had a greater ambition than this. He anticipated that some day he might become a leader of the people ; but whether this expectation will ever be verified remains to be seen. There is equal opportunity for everyone to be distinguished if only there be a firm determination to excel, and a willingness to be guided by the advice of those who are experienced. Wilful indifference to the warnings of men who have been a long time in active warfare, will doubtless result in defeat ; but where there is a loyal effort, a discreet resolve, victory is certain to be achieved. The greetings of the people will be freely showered, and unanimous plaudits echoed to the delight of the conqueror.

On one occasion Harry received an invitation to accompany a school-party to Redcar to spend the day. There were many things calculated to interest on the journey. The iron-works located near to Eston and Middlesborough were beheld with awe mixed with admiration. The waggons with coke being taken up a railway to a platform fixed at a considerable height, the glare of the fires issuing from the chimneys, the heated slag as it is being removed, and numerous other incidents in connection with the manufacture of iron, produce wonder and amazement. There was a display of metal and machinery not often seen, but when beheld, firmly impressed on the mind. It was, however, a singular explanation to give to an inquiry made by one of the juveniles, who, seeing the works for the first time, asked what they were, and was informed that they were a treacle manufactory. Such a reply was really made. Passing along by rail, the sea soon appeared in sight, and refreshing breezes were wafted, to the infinite pleasure of the excursionists. The train having come

to a stand at the destination of the party, willing feet scampered down to the sands and the boys enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent : dabbling in and out of the water, gazing upon the vessels as they sailed gloriously away, gathering seaweed, and frolicking like young lambs at play. Later on arrangements were made for a number to go out in a boat on to the sea, and when the transit into the boat, by means of a plank, had been safely accomplished, the little craft was soon being rowed seaward. Ever and anon, as the waves caused it to rise and fall, great delight was experienced. When the party had settled into position, and become accustomed to the moving of the boat, some one began to sing. Possibly it was a hymn which, appropriate to the sea, runs :

'We are out on the ocean sailing,
Homeward bound we sweetly glide ;
We are out on the ocean sailing,
To a home beyond the tide.

CHORUS.

'All the storms will soon be over,
Then we'll anchor in the harbour ;
We are out on the ocean sailing
To a home beyond the tide.

'Millions now are safely landed,
Over on the golden shore ;
Millions more are on their journey,
Yet there's room for millions more.'

When the excursion on the sea was over, all were anxious for some refreshment ; an adjournment was accordingly made to a confectioner's, where buns, pies, ginger-beer, and probably tea, were obtained. A stroll round the streets followed, and sundry purchases of presents were made at the shops for friends at home. The sands, however, had a magnetic influence, and a troop of boys found their way there. Games were indulged in for a time ; then the owners of the donkeys

and ponies secured a few customers, and races were run. By this time the whole party had come upon the sands, and it was decided to go on the pier. Payment at the rate of one penny each having been made, all leisurely wended their way to the cabin situated at the end of the pier. Here more games were begun and enjoyed, or it may be some of the boys or girls preferred to sit and watch the waves as they rolled in upon the shore. An hour spent in this way, and it was time to return to the station to catch the train for home. Thus a very enjoyable day was brought to a close.

Each and all have had a pleasant outing, and as they live in the country, they appreciate the seaside with its thousand and one attractions and delights. Harry had one or two boon companions, and frequently they went for long rambles after school-hours or on Saturday afternoons when there was holiday. What mutual confidence and regard existed among these boys! No distrust, no jealousy, no conceit were manifested. What was felt was at once made known; hence there was a transparent simplicity in the intercourse which the different youths had with one another. Subjects of passing interest were discussed, and the opinion formed was approved by all. In this they taught a lesson to many of their elders, for instead of being stubborn and unyielding, they gave their consent to what their judgment told them was right. At the proper season these boys gathered blackberries from the hedgerows, and rose early in the morning to seek for mushrooms in the pastures. These wanderings proved both healthy and invigorating; besides, the efforts made were often rewarded by good supplies of the edibles being obtained. There is a sense of freedom in moving about in this manner, though in

climbing the hedges in search of blackberries scratches and other injuries of a similar nature are sustained. The chief aim, however, is to secure the requisite quantity of fruit—probably a tin can of a gallon capacity—and when this has been done the gatherers return home with light hearts.

Many a time, however, it happens that others have been searching for blackberries along the hedges which are being examined; hence it not infrequently happens that a long distance is traversed and few berries gathered. Or it may be that the season has been unfavourable for ripening and otherwise perfecting the berry. Or again, the rain may have fallen so pitilessly—as is the case in a thunderstorm—that the fruit has become damaged to such an extent as to be nearly worthless; and so the stock gathered is not so large as could be wished. Disappointment is experienced. Wearied and worn, the gatherers have to retrace their steps with an unsatisfactory store. If the youths were fortunate, they would possibly be able to gather a great number of mushrooms, though this was not always the case, as it is only on land which is moist and spongy that the mushroom is found. Two or three hours spent in rambling from field to field in early morning was very agreeable and bracing. In the summer-time the youths went to bathe in a stream about a mile distant from their homes; whilst in the winter, when snow and frost made their appearance, they enjoyed themselves by snowballing and sliding. These were happy days; no care was experienced, but each day brought its pleasures, often new and varied. Truly youth gives innumerable delights and springs of joy, which, however, unfortunately pass too rapidly.

In whatever stage of life we may be, there are certain plea-

asures to be derived, though there is a vigour and freshness connected with the first years of our existence which cannot afterwards be realized. In youth everything appears to be bright and vernal. Hope animates and cheers. Aims are high and lofty. Difficulties are vanquished with ease. Serenity of soul and mind is enjoyed, and noble deeds, disinterested actions, are the result. Human nature is appraised at its proper value, and aid is extended with a ready hand. In youth the commandment 'to love thy neighbour as thyself' is frequently carried out, though it may be somewhat unconsciously. Gladness is predominant in the disposition of the young; hence there are outward acts which tend to produce feelings of joy in others. There is a willingness to benefit each brother or sister who may need assistance. A loyal heart gives point to the sympathy expressed, and an earnest endeavour is made to lend all the help which it is possible to do. There is no looking askance, no 'passing by on the other side,' but a fervent desire to cheer and console in every disappointment experienced.

Harry and his companions had many a game together, and enjoyed themselves as boys only know how. Knur and spell at the proper season had its attractions. A meeting was held in the corner of a field—probably a pasture—and when all the arrangements were made, the trial of skill commenced. Each boy had an innings, and the one who drove the knur the farthest was pronounced the victor. The distance from the place where the spell is fixed and the knur is struck to the point where the latter is afterwards discovered is measured; hence it is ascertained when the longest hit has been made. Some boys are fortunate enough to send the knur for a con-

siderable distance. A little tact is required, and (as in the game of cricket) a steady eye. When the knur has risen from the spell it should be fairly struck, and if this is done with strength and power, it may be expected that it will travel for at least eighty yards. The knur, as well as the stick used to strike it, are made by hand; hence there is a great amount of cutting needed to get them formed into proper proportions. In wet weather this engages the attention of the boys who practise the game. They are thus employed to advantage, and it is surprising what shapely knurs and sticks are turned off by them.

It is not every boy who is able to spell the word 'knur'. In many instances it is confounded with the word 'oar,' used for rowing a boat. At school, spelling-matches were occasionally held, and this word (with others pronounced alike, but spelt differently) caused some boys to fail in spelling. The word 'hew' is puzzling to those boys who are unacquainted with the different methods of spelling as applied to different subjects; *e.g.*, hew, means to cut down; yew, (similarly pronounced) a tree; and ewe, a sheep. There are other words which are pronounced in exactly the same way, but are spelt in a totally different manner. There is some excuse for an error in cases like these; but for the word 'am' to be spelt, as it is sometimes, 'ham,' is wholly unpardonable. The spelling-matches held in school provided both pleasure and instruction. A number of scholars were seated facing each other, and it was their duty to ask one another words to spell. Any word might be selected except what was purely technical, and a record was kept of the failures to spell it correctly. Some boys were adepts at spelling, and as a con-

sequence were successful in their attempts ; whilst on the other hand, blunders egregious and amusing were often committed by the boys who were not so proficient. It was very gratifying to have these tests applied, and all the boys were glad to take part in a match. The boys were expected to try to excel, those who made the least number of mistakes being awarded praise.

In addition to the game at knur and spell at which Harry and his companions played, quoits engaged their attention, as well as fives. Whenever opportunity afforded, they took part in these games, and thereby secured healthy recreation, their muscles being brought into active operation. It not infrequently occurs that many boys by practice and perseverance become admirable players at quoits and fives. There is, however, a great amount of patience required ; especially is this the case as the games approach completion. To be too hasty when the score is nearly reached will possibly result in defeat. Taking it for granted that the score is fifteen and the competitors are fourteen each, it is evident that great care must be exercised, as well as every effort made, in order to win. The game becomes somewhat exciting when the relative position of both sides is as here stated.

When a good muster of schoolmates could be obtained, Harry had a game at hare and hounds. One boy was started off a short time in advance of the rest, and they then tried to overtake him. Many fences had to be leaped or scaled, and a considerable distance was often run before a catch was effected. The run was doubtless a pleasing one, however, and though sundry rents in clothing were sustained, these did not disturb the composure of the boys. It was probable that each

of the boys would become somewhat exhausted by running; but this only emphasized the enjoyment of the race they had taken part in. If the boy who acted as leader was able to run for a considerable time, he would discover that his following became less, as those who were tired gave up the chase. A few, however, would push forward with persistency until they overtook the leader. A wide circuit was made, and it often occurred that when the game was ended the boys found they had traversed a great amount of ground, but were not far distant from their homes.

After the game, the boys went in search of new adventures, or discussed their several experiences in following their leader. Possibly one of the boys had been more daring than the rest, and when he encountered a fence which he thought he could leap, he made a bold attempt at it, regardless of the fact that at the farthest side of it there was a ditch, and as a consequence he might alight in it with a result which was not quite satisfactory to him; his boots would be covered with mud, and his trousers probably fringed with it, and he would have some difficulty in ridding himself of the unpleasant effect of his intrepidity. But boys are not alarmed by little incidents of this character, and display their marks with a merry laugh and a sort of pride, as though their actions, or more correctly speaking, escapades, were meritorious. If the mud were not incurred in climbing or leaping over the hedges and ditches, it would no doubt be experienced in running over the ploughed fields. This in addition is fagging. The pastures can be crossed with ease, but the ploughed or fallow fields try the strength and test the energies of the bravest. Pleasure, however, is often obtained at the expense of a great amount of toil.

It is no unusual sight to see boys perspire freely at their games; but this is lightly regarded, being taken merely as an evidence of the zest which they have displayed in performing their part. It is satisfactory to behold boys entering fully into the spirit of their games. An indifference in play will probably have its counterpart in an indifference at work; and he who does not seek to excel in both may fail to make his mark in the world. A determination to give the whole powers of the mind or body to the subject which engages the attention, is the wisest and best plan. Perfection is not realized at one stroke, but it is the result of steady perseverance. If there be a firm resolve that the opportunity of attaining proficiency shall not be neglected, then there is a reasonable hope of the individual being successful.

Whilst there were games which were peculiar to the summer, *i.e.*, could only be played in fine weather, there were other games which belonged to the winter, and which provided amusement for the boys when the nights were long. It would be difficult to decide under which circumstances the games were most enjoyed—those in the summer or those in the winter. In dark nights the favourite game played was 'hide and seek.' A boy had to remain in a certain position where he could not see the remainder of the boys, who betook themselves to nooks and corners, sometimes easy of access, and at other times not readily reached. When all the boys were hid, it was the duty of the boy who had been selected to remain behind to go in search of the remainder. He might have difficulty in discovering the boys, but as he had himself no doubt been one who was required to hide whilst another searched, on some other occasion, he would be

aware of the likeliest posts, and would accordingly make his way thither. It was not sufficient, however, that the boy or boys should be discovered ; it was necessary that their names should be called out, and this was sometimes no easy task. A boy might be found lurking in a corner, but as the night was dark it would be with some degree of hesitancy that his name could be pronounced, as the finder would not wish to give the wrong name. If he did so, the boy who was hid was not required to move ; but if the correct name was given, it was necessary for both boys to run to a certain point, and if the boy who had been espied was first there he was freed from any penalty. This was carried out in every instance until the whole of the boys were discovered, when the game was repeated, or it might be that an adjournment was made to the blacksmith's shop, where, by the ruddy glow of the fire—most pleasant on a winter's night—current events were discussed, and witticisms indulged in. As the red-hot iron was welded into the required shape, showers of sparks—original fireworks—fell freely. Some of the boys retired from the scene, being afraid that they would sustain injury, whilst others boldly stood their ground indifferent of consequences. At or about eight o'clock, however, the blacksmith ceased work, and the shutters of the window of the shop were closed, hence the whole of the boys assembled had to take their departure. If the night was exceptionally fine it was probable that another game was begun. A run over each other, or it might be a trial of strength in declining to allow anyone to cross a mark or boundary. Fixed determinations to pass where the will might dictate often had to succumb to a superior force which opposed, and so the night wore on until

the time arrived when each and all had to repair to their homes for rest.

There is nothing so interesting to boys and girls as the magic-lantern, especially when the views are well-managed. Harry was privileged to be present at an exhibition on one occasion, and greatly enjoyed himself. Varied scenes were depicted, many of them calculated to provoke merriment, and all of them yielding pleasure. It might be the man who had been taking medicine and was making a wry face, or another equally striking likeness. Sometimes the chase of one animal after another was thrown on to the sheet. Possibly the cat after rats, or, *vice versa*, the rats after the cat. It is somewhat difficult to conceive the infinite delight which a few comic incidents, such as those described, convey to the mind of the young. They form the one topic of conversation for days afterwards. Each boy would have to tell which scene pleased him the most, and how some peculiarity or oddity made him laugh. Bright and cheerful would be the comments made, and thanks hearty and cordial would be accorded to the individual who had so kindly provided the entertainment. Boys are not indifferent to the thoughtful acts which are wrought in their behalf, and they remember their benefactors with feelings of love and respect. The impressions formed by the magic-lantern are not soon forgotten. They cheer and inspire the mind for many a day. There are few children, or even adults, who have not experienced delight at one time or another at seeing illustrations by the magic-lantern. The novelty of the exhibition is such that the twofold sense of curiosity and humour is aroused, and being gratified, there is a satisfaction of mind of a decided character.

Information of value may be gained from the scenes depicted by the magic-lantern. It is possible to obtain slides on which are represented views of other countries, and hence lessons are taught which are profitable. Whilst a partial acquaintance with other lands may be secured by means of the magic-lantern, and thus knowledge be extended, moral lessons of influence and power may also be taught by aid of that instrument. Indeed, the range of subjects embraced by the magic-lantern is practically unbounded. Gleanings from ancient and modern history, glimpses of the choicest scenery, representations of life and character, can be produced; and hence in the short space of an hour it is possible to learn a great deal of what has transpired in the times gone by, or what is stirring the minds of the people at the present period. Truths of the highest importance may be taught, and instruction conveyed which is likely to direct the course of conduct; and hence the individual who is privileged to behold many of the views portrayed cannot fail to be greatly benefited. If pictures can arouse enthusiasm, or lend an inspiration to the mind, then the scenes displayed by the magic-lantern must have a similar effect, though it may be somewhat limited, from the fact that the views of the magic-lantern are evanescent. It is generally recognised that what is seen, or what is read, impresses the mind; hence, when pictures are exhibited which do not clash with the moral feelings, a real advantage is obtained—an impetus is given to what is vigorous and healthy, and of service in informing and guiding the mind.

There are many games which can be played at indoors, and hence, when the weather is unfavourable for outdoor sports, these games occupy the attention. For instance, there is

blindman's buff, and the coach. These and others, 'too numerous to mention,' to use auctioneers' phraseology, furnish recreation, so that the winter night can be passed very pleasantly. Given a well-lighted room, a good fire, genial companions, and nothing more is required to make the night a thoroughly enjoyable one. Time flows gaily along, and the merry laugh resounds, giving unmistakable evidence of the joy derived by one and all. As the winter is replaced by spring, the days become longer, and as a consequence the nights are shorter, hence outdoor sports are popular. It is not, however, until summer makes its appearance that definite action is taken to establish the game of cricket. When the days are warm and genial, then the costume suitable to the game is called into requisition, and with bat and wickets on their shoulders, a number of youths make their way to the ground selected, and having chosen sides, at once commence their game. The best bowlers are deputed to try their skill, the best batters strive to withstand the efforts made to overthrow them, and speedily the ball is flying hither and thither. The greatest animation abounds, and everyone tries his utmost to act his part well, and so aid the side to which he belongs. Those boys who are fielding are on the alert to catch the ball, if those who are batting give them the opportunity; and under any circumstances they vie with each other in rapidly forwarding the ball to the wicket-keeper when it has been struck by one of the batsmen. It may be that it is an evenly contested game, and if so, greater exertion is required to be made by both sides. The batsmen must be careful how they strike the ball—not to knock it straight into the hands of one of the fielders, but as far as possible to send it where there is no one stationed.

Harry was privileged on one occasion to take part in a match which was played against another school, and he enjoyed himself to the fullest extent. It was a source of gratification to the boys who were permitted to play in the game, for they felt they were in a similar position to those men who contest games of importance and whose achievements appear in print.

There is nothing which rejoices the heart of a boy more than to know that he is imitating a man ; for he looks forward upon the attaining of manhood as something vastly superior to what he has hitherto realized. 'Hope springs eternal in the human breast,' hence the boy expects to achieve much when he becomes a man. The feeling in question frequently prompts a determination to carry out the aim made, and as a consequence the reward is secured. Honest endeavour usually results in the prize sought being obtained. Difficulties are conquered and progress of a decided character is assured. The boy rejoices in the fact that he will one day be required to enter into active warfare in the world, and if he be of the right stamp he will resolve to be a 'hero in the strife'—will seek to gain the laurels of victory. Until the proper time arrives, patience must be exercised, and all the resources carefully husbanded. It may be that many of his dreams will be dispelled when actually tested ; but it is more than probable that some of them will be fulfilled. The reason that more boys do not excel when they reach manhood is that they allow the powers which they possess to lie dormant instead of bringing them into service ; are content with attaining mediocrity instead of aspiring after something beyond this. A willing disposition and a steady determination will prove as

effective as the possession of that which is known by the name of genius. Drones are similar to bees, but vastly inferior to them.

When the match in which Harry was engaged was over, the whole of the boys who formed one side, of which Harry was one, repaired to a hostelry, where a good tea had been provided. When justice was fully done, the boys arranged to return to their homes, greatly pleased with their outing. The whole of the expenses were paid by the schoolmaster, who had charge of the party. Such a day as the one which had been spent was to be remembered. The boys were deeply obligated to the schoolmaster for having planned and successfully carried out the arrangements. It was a great kindness on his part, and it made an impression on the minds of the pupils. They revered him the more for the interest he had taken in them. Some natures are lacking in sympathy, and unable to adapt themselves to the wants and wishes of others. Their demeanour is cold, and if they have acted in a kind manner towards anyone who needed assistance, it has been an accident, and not from a desire to benefit them. The lives of such individuals are like a tree devoid of leaves, sterile, and as a consequence they lose half of the pleasures which are derived from doing good. They think that it will avail nothing to cheer and console those who are passing through trying circumstances. A false philosophy gives them an idea that they enjoy life, but this cannot be if a selfish policy be followed. It is only by aiding those who require help, by speaking words of encouragement to those who are struggling with difficulties, that satisfaction can be gained. The end and aim of life is not to be indifferent

to the trials which beset the pathway of our fellow-men, but as far as possible to remove or mitigate them. To extend a helping hand to those who are depressed by the hardships which they have to endure, to inspire and save those who are in danger of falling, to guide the untutored, should be the ambition of everyone whose position in life is such that he is enabled, if he be so disposed, to act in the manner indicated.

No difficulty is experienced in inducing some people to follow such a course as coincides with their disposition, which is of a selfish character, but it is not so easy to persuade them to consider the feelings of others. Self is the beginning and ending with them, and they care little or nothing for anyone else. There is nothing which can commend itself to the noble-minded man in acting in this way. It is a cheerless and disappointing state or condition to be found in. There is no lofty or inspiring principle ruling or guiding the individual, but a morbid insensibility to what does not tend to the gratification of the lower cravings of nature, and as a consequence no real joy is derived. Self-denial brings more repose to the mind than self-gratification, and kindness shown to others frequently rebounds in gratitude deep and lasting. Monuments are not required to be erected in memory of those who in life have sought to benefit mankind. The remembrance of their deeds is treasured up in the hearts of men, and a loving regard is cherished for them. Their noble acts have left a fragrance which smells more sweetly as days and months roll on. To have a name for valuable aid and assistance vouchsafed to suffering and tried humanity is more precious than to possess great wealth. To live amid the grateful expressions of those who have received real assis-

tance from them gives unmixed joy to the true-hearted. Loyal feelings are engendered by kind works, and no one is slow to detect when there is a desire to aid them. A boy will discover without effort when the promise of help is genuine, and he will at once form an opinion on the motives which prompt it. When the actions of an individual are contrary to his words, then the conclusions formed of his character are unsatisfactory, and he falls in the estimation of other people. There should be a firm and distinct determination to carry out the royal law in the intercourse of one man with another, and then the result cannot fail to be all that is desired.

PART II.

THE time at length arrived when Harry was required to take an active part in the affairs of life. In brief, his school-days were over, and he must engage in work. But he was not discouraged by this fact; nay, the reverse was the case; he held high hopes, and looked gleefully forward to what he would achieve—to the position he might attain in the world. It was arranged for him to join his uncle in the farm which he held. Accordingly, on the day appointed, a spring-cart drawn by a tractable and pretty pony arrived to take Harry to what was to be his home for a term of years. Leave-taking over, Harry was soon speeding rapidly to his uncle's house, and seeking to gain a knowledge of the operations which were being conducted in the fields on either side of the road. A new mode of life had now been commenced by Harry. Released from the restraint of school, he had to become acquainted with a service which was more free, albeit the obligations of farm work were to some extent binding. A farmer's life is not unfettered. He frequently has several things pressing for attention, and he is apt to be sorely perplexed as to which he should perform first. Whilst his men are engaged with one class of work, another class is probably suffering by being neglected. Whilst the hay is being won,

the turnips require to be hoed. The only plan to follow is to act as appears for the best. The weather has a great deal to do with the hay ; hence, whilst the sun shines no effort should be spared to win the crop. It is desirable to bring into action all the force possible when the weather is favourable, so that the hay may be gathered in good condition, as, if there be any reluctance exhibited, the rain may descend, and the consequences be disastrous ; the crop may be lost, or at least greatly injured.

When Harry had greeted his uncle and cousins and partook of some refreshment, he was shown around the stables and other buildings of the farmstead. The horses were the chief attraction to him. He was glad to learn all about them—of the strength of Boxer, of the speed of Beauty, of the steadiness of Dick, and of the quiet and reliable qualities of Bobby the pony. He had a desire to test the abilities of the latter animal, for Harry had some hesitancy in believing that a pony which apparently possessed so much spirit could be readily controlled. An opportunity was soon afforded, for on the morrow Harry was commissioned to take a message to the neighbouring farm, and was allowed to ride Bobby. He found the description given was more than fully borne out, for whilst the pony cantered along whilst in the fields, yet it would stop at the gates, and wait patiently until they were opened.

Harry enjoyed his ride, and thought to himself that he had at least discovered one source of joy, which would compensate for any difficulties he might have to contend with whilst working on the farm. Here was an ever-increasing means of recreation, and he would often be enabled to recruit his ener-

gies by a ride. The realities of tilling the land forced themselves upon him, however, for he accompanied his cousin to the field and helped him to yoke the horses to the plough. When this had been accomplished, Harry guided the horses, whilst his cousin took charge of the plough. Up and down the furrows they went until, be it frankly confessed, Harry was quite tired, and he began to wish that the time would arrive when the horses might be loosed from the plough, and all might return home. The desired hour came at length, and when the horses had been released Harry mounted one and his cousin another, and the homeward journey was commenced. Harry had a certain amount of pride in his first day's achievements on the farm, and he resolved to go on with unabated zeal. The novelty of the work in which he had engaged was no doubt an inducement, as also the difference which existed to the life of a scholar, which had been experienced by him. A new field of labour had opened out, which had its fascinations. The employment was of a character which called forth muscular strength, and hence it was probable that Harry would develop into a robust man in course of time.

When Harry and his cousin arrived at the farmstead, the horses were taken to the pond to drink, and then were led into the stable, where they were combed, brushed and fed. After this had been completed Harry felt an appetite for his tea. An adjournment was accordingly made to the house, where brown bread and butter, spread on a snowy-white tablecloth, were found to be waiting. A cup of good tea, with cream and sugar, was very refreshing, and Harry did full justice to it. A chat followed for a short time. The theme

of conversation was in reference to farming ; the state of the crops, the price of cattle, of dairy produce, and the promising condition of the calves and young horses. Harry could only occasionally hazard a remark, for, being inexperienced, his opinion was not of much value. The horses had again to be attended to, and the stock in the fields to be looked over to see that it was all right, and as the fields in which the cattle and sheep were located were some distance apart, the shades of night began to gather before the whole of the animals could be visited.

Next day there was a repetition of the ploughing, and in addition some carting was required to be done. The day following it was arranged to wash the sheep, preparatory to their being shorn of their wool. Harry felt considerable interest in this, and he was astir early in the morning. Rover, the dog, was first called for, and directed, in gestures which he appeared well to understand, to collect the sheep together. When this had been accomplished, the sheep were driven off to a beck which had previously been dammed. A man, who had been supplied with an apron composed of strong material, then entered the water, and the sheep were handed to him one by one. Having been enclosed in pens, they were easily caught, immersed in the water, and thoroughly washed. The process was slow, but effectual in its operation. The effect of the immersion of the sheep was to make them perfectly clean and white in their fleeces and more cheerful in their behaviour. In the course of a few days after having been washed, they were shorn of their wool. A number of farmers' sons and other friends were invited in the afternoon, and they each selected a sheep and clipped off the fleece. This

was continued until all the sheep had been shorn. The wool was then stored until it was bought by the merchant. The weather was very warm ; hence it would be an advantage to the sheep to have their fleeces removed ; and they roamed about and bleated as though they had enjoyed the operation which they had undergone. Harry could not be of much service whilst the shearing was being performed, but he assisted to the best of his ability.

The market-day arrived, and it was necessary to pack all the eggs and butter in order to take them to be sold. Harry and one of his cousins were despatched with two beasts, which were likewise to be sold. One of the animals was rather wild, and it was with difficulty that Harry prevented it from galloping off into the fields. It appeared to have a repugnance to walk along the road, and frequently ran into the hedge which skirts the highway. Some distance had to be travelled before the market town was reached, hence Harry was almost exhausted with his efforts to keep the bullock from transgressing. The destination was, however, gained at last, and the cattle placed in the pens, and Harry and his cousin betook themselves to explore the town. They walked along the principal streets and gazed at the windows of the shops. They saw sundry goods displayed, and noticed at the drapers' there were several articles with cards attached to them, giving the price. The amount in shillings was clearly and legibly stated, but the pence in addition were in many cases shown in small figures, and not easily discerned at a distance ; thus, whilst an umbrella at first sight appeared to be 5s., a closer examination revealed the fact that the price was really 5s. 11½d. This method of stating the price of an

article appeared to be singular, and it occurred to Harry that it would be more satisfactory if the whole of the figures were printed in a bold and legible manner. As Harry and his cousin proceeded with their walk, Harry could not refrain from remarking upon the irregular size of the houses and shops of the main street. Whilst some were large and imposing, others were small, and it not infrequently occurred that a small house or shop adjoined a large building, the effect being at least strange. Each person who had built a house or shop had done so quite regardless of the adjoining one, or it may be that, in the case of the small buildings, his pocket prevented the owner from building to a greater height. Be this as it may, it appeared to be unfortunate that more uniformity had not existed in the erection of the buildings. It would have been an advantage if it had been compulsory for the houses to be built of equal size, and for those people who were unable to comply with the rule, owing to lack of funds, to refrain from building. Harry and his cousin walked on, and, by a slight divergence, they came to the church, the door of which being open, they entered, and removing their hats, proceeded to inspect the interior. The stained window attracted their attention, and the lectern and pulpit caused them to be interested. The carving was of such a character as to call for minute inspection, and they spent some time in examining it. A vast amount of labour had been expended, and the individual whose workmanship it was had no doubt considered it a labour of love, or he would not have taken so much pains to perfect his work.

It is pleasing to see a deep and earnest spirit mani-

fested in the rightful cause of beautifying God's house. If an effort be made to make dwelling-houses pretty as well as clean and comfortable, a similar effort should be made to have the place where an assembly meet together for spiritual worship attractive. It is not necessary that there should be extensive embellishments, but only such the chief recommendation of which lies in their simplicity.

The floor of the church was composed of tessellated tiles, joined together so as to form a diamond. There was no gallery, but all the seats were situated on the floor of the church, and it was quite as easy for the people who were seated farthest from the minister to see and hear him, as for those who were seated nearer to him. Harry and his cousin were gratified with what they had seen, and withdrew from the church to pursue their walk. They had been told that there was an old abbey in the vicinity, and they wended their way in the direction of it. Time, however, passed quickly along, and they were enabled to give only a hasty inspection to the ruins. A portion of what had been a large and dignified structure remained, and it occurred to the minds of Harry and his cousin that if the history of the abbey and its associations had been written, it would have been very interesting. What scenes, stirring and otherwise, had doubtless been enacted within its walls or precincts! but as it stood, lonely and forlorn, it served only to carry the thoughts back to the days of Queen Mary, when the Roman Catholic religion was predominant, and monks were more numerous than they are now. There was something peculiarly impressive in standing amongst the ruins of an old building. The lesson irresistibly taught was that all must pass away, and

that in time everyone, like the ruins around, will belong to the past.

The streets were occupied with people who were hastening to the market, and Harry and his cousin joined them. The greater portion of those who were going to the market were chatting together ; the theme which engaged them chiefly was the state of the weather, and the effect of it upon the crops. This may appear to have been a somewhat commonplace subject, but only those who live in the country know the importance of the weather being favourable to the cultivation of the soil and the perfecting of the various kinds of cereals. If the weather be wet and cold, the corn does not develop, and, as a consequence, those who are particularly interested become somewhat exercised in their minds ; but it is surprising how soon the opinion formed can change. If the weather be fine, unbounded faith is placed in it ; whilst if the rain descend for a day or two, many people think, and give free expression to their thoughts, that the crops will all be lost, and on every hand the question is asked, What can be done to avert or mitigate what threatens to be a national calamity ? If one fine day does not make summer, neither does a rainy day make winter ; and if, instead of giving way to despair when too much rain descends, a little of the faith so credulously shown in fine weather were exercised under these opposing circumstances, it would be an advantage. It is singular that men should have so much faith in fine weather, and in wet or unfavourable weather be so deficient in this respect. Human nature, however, is a complication, hence the surprise expressed at the course of conduct followed is not so great as it otherwise might be.

Arrived at the market, Harry found the majority of the people intent on selling and buying, and, by observing the mode of operation, it speedily became evident that the prices were ruled by the supplies of the commodities, or the demands there were for them. A plentiful supply of any article invariably brought down the prices, whilst a scarcity had a tendency to make the prices rise. On the occasion in question, the supply and demand were equally balanced, and the prices were fairly reasonable. Butter sold at eighteenpence per pound, and eggs a penny each. After a short stay at this part of the market, Harry proceeded to the place where cattle were sold. His cousin had preceded him, and was already negotiating with a man who was wishful to purchase the two animals which had been brought to the market. The bargain was not at once concluded, but, as the difference between the amount asked and that proffered was not great, the cattle were eventually purchased. The man who had bought the cattle suggested that an adjournment should be made to a public-house. Harry and his cousin felt some reluctance to follow this course, but at length agreed to do so. Once inside, a number of men were found to be sitting round drinking various kinds of liquor, and anon Harry's principles were to be tested, for amongst the company assembled were some of his friends. Being anxious to show their goodwill, they pressed Harry to have some refreshment at their expense, but were unable to induce him to do so. They were somewhat surprised when they discovered that he would not avail himself of their kindness, and one of them, wishing to display his superiority, commenced to use words of banter coupled with taunts, and speedily he received the assistance of others, for

they no doubt felt that Harry's refusal to drink an intoxicant was to some extent a condemnation of their own course of conduct. Said one :

'How long is it since you became teetotal? I fancy you can take a drink of beer as well as anyone else; but you like to have it on the sly.'

'You must be wearied with your walk to market,' said another, 'and should therefore take some refreshment, otherwise you will be quite exhausted.'

'A single glass will not make you tipsy,' chimed in a third; whilst another, who was more advanced in life, and thought he was justified in speaking from experience, said :

'A glass of beer will do you good. Indeed, you should have a glass every forenoon; it would strengthen you. You are only a delicate-looking creature at the best, and I fancy that you will never reach manhood if you stand by your teetotal principles.'

These remarks were like a broadside attack on a ship. It appeared to be difficult to rebut them; but Harry was fully equal to the occasion. To the first insinuation, that he would take a drink on the sly, he replied that he maintained his teetotal principles in the presence of others and when alone, and that it could only be one who was guilty of duplicity himself who would charge it upon another; and, as to his requiring refreshment, having had a long walk, he did not deny this; 'but,' said he, 'there are facilities in abundance for obtaining all that is required without having recourse to stimulants.' To the remark that a single glass of beer would not make him tipsy, he replied he did not think that it would; but as, by taking it, he would break the temperance pledge, he

preferred not to have it. To the statement that a glass of beer would do him good, and that he ought to take one every forenoon, as otherwise he might not reach manhood, he could only refer to the many people he knew who were enjoying the fullest vigour of manhood, and were not indebted to alcohol for it, and he preferred to imitate them. Having made these defensive remarks, Harry felt that he might be excused for frankly expressing his opinion. He therefore proceeded to do so, and in eloquent words pointed out the baneful effects of drink. He reminded those present of the fact that drink is the cause of the degradation and misery of thousands ; that drink is responsible for the deeds of violence rampant on every hand ; 'and,' said he, 'let me ask you one question. Has not the first glass, taken, it may be, under circumstances like the present, frequently led to a man becoming a drunkard ? This tippling is like travelling down an inclined plane, but the consequences are often more serious.'

With these words Harry closed, and at once varied expressions fell from his hearers. Some approved and some condemned, whilst others both approved and condemned. One man said it was quite true what Harry had stated, whilst another said that Harry had not had any experience, and was therefore not entitled to speak ; again, a third thought that a single glass of ale or spirit would do a man good, but as to being a drunkard, it was most improper.

The surprise of the party was great when they found that Harry so boldly repulsed the attacks made upon him, and gave in such pronounced language his views on the subject of drinking. They doubtless expected that as he was only young he would shrink under the scathing remarks made to him ;

but they had discovered their mistake, and the majority of them felt that on the whole he had the best of the argument ; indeed, one or two who were spending the money which should have been used in buying requisites for their wives and families thought that it would have been an advantage if they had shown an equal determination to refuse the first glass ; and they began to form resolutions to amend their ways. By the time the conversation ceased, Harry's cousin had received payment for the cattle, and prepared to leave to deposit the money in the bank ; and as Harry had to accompany him, he bid the group assembled at the public-house good day. One of them, an elderly man, shouted after Harry, ' Farewell ! ' and said he, ' Keep teetotal, my lad, and you will never have cause to regret doing so.'

Harry was glad to reach the open air, as the heated atmosphere of the room which he had left, and the trial through which he had undergone, caused his face to be flushed and his brain to whirl. When he regained his normal condition, and reflected on what had transpired, he saw no reason to regret what he had said, or the determination he had shown in declining to drink intoxicating liquor when invited by his friends ; indeed, he hoped that the sentiments he had expressed would make others less inclined to drink.

When Harry's cousin had safely deposited the money at the bank, they retired to a confectionery establishment, where they obtained some refreshment and recruited their energies. The day was by this time drawing towards a close, and as they had some distance to travel, they decided to look hastily around at the several establishments where pleasure was

to be obtained, and then start on their homeward journey. There was, however, not much business being done at the shooting-galleries and other kindred places of amusement ; so Harry and his cousin did not remain long looking at them.

When they had commenced to return home, they observed three men in a conveyance aiming for the same road on which they were walking. Harry recognised two of the men as having been in the inn at the time he was there. The man who had charge of the reins was driving very rapidly, and using the whip freely—too freely, Harry thought. They passed on, and it is possible that the subject would not have recurred to the mind of Harry, had it not been for a circumstance which transpired later on.

When Harry and his cousin reached a hill about a mile from the town, they saw a commotion a few hundred yards ahead ; and hastening forward, they discovered that the conveyance which they had previously noticed had come into collision with a waggon laden with goods, the result being that the conveyance had been upset and the occupants thrown out. All had received injury, the one who was driving having his shoulder dislocated. On inquiry of the man in charge of the waggon, it appeared that he observed the conveyance coming along, and drew his horses on one side so that it might pass. Instead of the person in charge of the conveyance pulling his horse aside also, he kept in the middle of the road, and as a consequence the wheels struck the waggon, with the result as stated. Why the driver of the conveyance should have acted as he did was singular, and yet it was easily explained. He had had too much drink, and with a mock

bravado had resolved not to draw aside for the waggon to pass.

Drink may make men daring and brave, but if it causes them to act as this man did, the less people have to do with it the better. Here were three men all more or less injured, a dogcart smashed, and a horse rendered less reliable by the fright it had received, due entirely to indulgence by one man in intoxicating liquor.

By the time Harry reached the scene of the accident, the waggoner had unyoked one of his horses with the intention of riding forward with all possible haste to the town to secure the services of a doctor, and it became necessary to make the sufferers as comfortable as circumstances would permit until such time as assistance could be procured. Harry therefore assisted the man whose shoulder had been dislocated on to the grass growing by the side of the road; then doubled the rug which had been in the conveyance and placed it under his head for him to rest upon. Meanwhile, Harry's cousin had proceeded to a farmhouse which was situated about two fields off to ask for help. This was not long in being forthcoming, and as the man who was the greatest sufferer expressed a desire not to be moved more than was necessary, it was decided carefully to transfer him to the farmhouse until he could be visited by the doctor. The waggon was utilised for this purpose, the cushions of the conveyance and the rug being taken for the man to recline upon. Harry accompanied the injured man to the farmhouse, and his cousin proceeded on the homeward journey, along with the two other men who had been thrown out of the conveyance, who, though shaken and bruised, were able to walk.

In due course the doctor arrived and attended to the patient. He shook his head gravely, and remarked that he was afraid it would be some time before the sufferer would be well. He prescribed rest and nourishment, beef-tea and other similar strengthening drinks, but no intoxicating liquor. Game and mutton were to be taken, as well as easily digestible food. A long dreary illness followed, and it was some weeks before the man was able to work. Had it not been that he was a member of a Friendly Society, and received a weekly allowance, he would have experienced difficulty in existing ; as it was, he was prevented from obtaining many needful things by want of funds. That he regretted his foolish freak, and resolved to amend his ways by signing the pledge, was only what might have been expected as the sequence of the accident. Whilst he was laid off work, he had ample opportunity to reflect on the folly of imbibing intoxicating liquor to such an extent as to make a man incapable of acting in a reasonable and proper manner, and he was determined not to be 'entrapped' in such a way in future. When at length his strength was restored, he manfully steered clear of the drink, and by steady perseverance he gained an honourable position in the world.

Harry soon became accustomed to the duties devolving upon him at the farm. He could chop the turnips for the cattle, obtain the necessary supply of corn and hay for the horses, feed the pigs and poultry, and when required assist to milk the cows.

The duties in connection with a farm are manifold, and it must not be supposed that when the day has been passed in ploughing, harrowing, or other work on the land, all is

accomplished. There is more to be done when the farmstead is reached. The cattle have to be inspected, and other duties attended to which are too numerous to mention. Indeed, on some farms the men rarely know when their day's work is over, for from early in the morning until late at night they are fully engaged. The policy of such a course of action is open to doubt. Slavery is prohibited throughout the British Isles; hence men should not be required to be slaves to their work. Numbers are quite willing to perform a fair day's work, but to be employed from the time of rising in the morning to retiring at night is more than human nature can bear. It is, however, probable that if such a course of action be followed, the object in view will eventually be defeated: for there will not be that effort to get through the work which there would be under other circumstances. Parliament has fixed the hours of duty of those engaged in factories, and there is no doubt that many overworked farm servants would be glad if something could be done in this respect for them. Thanks to the generous conduct of some farmers, their servants are not required to work longer than a reasonable time, and are allowed a little leisure in which to recruit their energies. It is certain that they will lose nothing by it, for if a man expends all his strength one day, he will be unable to exert himself on the following day. A little discretion in regard to this will be advantageous to all concerned.

In the various duties calling for attention on the farm, Harry found sufficient employment. Now, it was driving the cows to the pasture, or bringing them home to be milked, or catching the horses when required for work; again, it was removing the sheep from one pasture to another. The plough-

ing was a tedious occupation, so little progress being made ; but when at length the field had been finished, it was soon prepared for the grain to be sown, unless it were decided to allow it to remain in fallow for a year. It often happened that letters were required to be taken to the post-office or other errands fulfilled, and Harry was called upon to undertake these duties ; or it might be that some of the stock in a distant field had to be seen, to ascertain that it was all right, and it was necessary for Harry to ride off on the pony for this purpose. Under such circumstances, it is not to be wondered at that Harry took a great interest in the pony, and exercised every care over it. He obtained the necessary corn and water for it, and curry-combed and brushed it to the best of his ability.

The realities of farm-work were beginning to be felt, and though somewhat monotonous, many pleasures were enjoyed. The freedom of moving around the fields and in the lanes, the riding and driving, the association with others who were engaged in a similar manner, conspired to make life pleasant. The alternation constituted a charm to what otherwise would have been prosaic. Tilling the land may not be tempting employment to some people ; but it has its charms. It occasionally happens, however, that the heat in the summer is oppressive, and the energies of those employed in the fields then become exhausted. When the sun is pouring down its rays, it is apt to make anyone wearied, especially if muscular effort is called into activity, as is the case with those engaged in farm-work.

In harvest every person is required to do his utmost to secure the crops. The reaper speedily lays the ears of corn

low, and it remains for the person who has them to gather and for the binder to hasten forward, otherwise the work may be interrupted. There is considerable merriment in running after the rabbits as they leave the standing corn, frightened by the noise of the reaper. It frequently occurs that a rabbit starts forth quite near to one or other of those engaged in harvest operations, and these immediately scamper after it in the hope of securing it. The excitement of the chase is very enjoyable. If the rabbit is fleet of foot it may possibly escape ; but, if not, it is taken captive. If a dog be taken to the field there is a greater likelihood of the rabbit being secured, but there is not so much pleasure in witnessing the dog running after the rabbit as there is in anyone personally trying to catch it. If, however, a hare makes its appearance it will lead the dog a merry chase, and, in the end, probably get clear away.

When the corn has been bound into sheaves, it is allowed to lie on the ground until the reaper ceases at night, when all are required to assist in placing it in stooks, *i.e.* ten or twelve sheaves are made to rest against each other on their ends. They remain in this position until the corn is dry, when they are carted into stacks. The harvest often extends for three or four weeks, for, when the crop in one field has been cut, that in another field is commenced, hence those who are employed on a farm are kept actively engaged until the whole of the corn is safely stored in the stack-yard. Here it remains until threshed by the machine. It is a busy day for those connected with a farm when the threshing-machine commences operations. A number of men are required in order that the business of separating the grain from the straw may

be conducted aright. Some are deputed to pass the sheaves of corn to the machine, others have to see that the sack which receives the corn is removed when filled, whilst again others bind the straw which is cast forth by the machine into bundles.

It is customary to borrow men and boys from adjoining farms on those days on which the threshing-machine is at work, so that there may be a sufficient staff to meet all requirements, for there are numerous details to attend to not mentioned here. Extra provision is required to be made for the unusual number of people engaged on such days. A good dinner, consisting of roast beef and plum-pudding, is generally provided. Similar fare is dispensed on ploughing-days, when the neighbouring farmers give their assistance to plough the land. When an entry is made upon a farm, it is the rule to hold a ploughing-day. The farmer who has taken possession visits his friends, and invites them to send him a man, a pair of horses, and a plough on a certain day; the result is that from thirty to forty men, or sometimes more, go with their teams of horses, and plough a goodly portion of land. A spirit of rivalry exists amongst the men who are engaged in this manner, and they see which of them can plough the straightest furrow. It is a great advantage to a farmer to receive such assistance as he does on these ploughing-days. He is placed in a position to have the grain sown at the proper time, whilst, if he had relied on his own staff, he might have been unable to do this.

It would be to the interest of farmers generally if an effort were made to assist each other on occasions when it is important that very decided progress should be made. Unity is

strength, hence there is every probability that, with a number of helpers, the work would speedily be accomplished.

But this is a digression. Harry soon became competent to take charge of a team of horses, and he made it a rule not to deal harshly with them. He seldom used the whip, and tried to induce the horses to go forward by speaking kindly to them. He speedily discovered that the horses knew his voice, and that they willingly responded when he called to them to increase their speed. It was not the method which obtained favour with many of the drivers thus to deal with the horses. In some instances the whip was freely used, and it not infrequently occurred that oaths were uttered and the horses shouted to as though they were deaf. The difference in the mode of treating the horses soon revealed results which were eminently satisfactory. The work was accomplished with greater ease, the horses were not so jaded in appearance, and were more willing to do what was required of them. To deal humanely with dumb animals is most commendable, and to treat them harshly most reprehensible. There is a tendency too often manifested to torture and ill-use members of the brute creation, but they can only be considered cowards who act in such a manner. The noble-minded man will have a regard for his horse, or, indeed, for any animal which belongs to him, and will not deal unmercifully with it.

Harry's team of horses reflected credit upon him, for he gave every attention to them, fed them regularly, and rubbed and brushed them when required. When not engaged in carting to or from the fields, there was ploughing, harrowing, and other duties to attend to. There was always something to alter or improve, and the time for leisure was very brief. The

rain, however, occasionally caused a respite, for it was necessary to shelter in some of the buildings, and when it did not cease for some time, a rest from labour was obtained for a lengthened period. It was not always that the horses were required, for a great amount of manual labour was frequently in demand—*e.g.*, there was the weed to clear from the young plants of corn; there were the turnips to hoe, and, later on, to pull, so that they might be stored for use by the cattle during the winter months; but Harry took all in good part, and did not complain. He pushed bravely forward in whatever work he was called upon to undertake. When the winter arrived, with its frost and cold, farming operations relaxed a little. It was necessary, however, to carry fodder to the fields for the sheep, and to see that they sustained no injury by the stormy weather. The cattle in the byres, and the horses in the stables, needed a great amount of attention also.

The nights were very long, and it was customary for Harry and his relations to converse together for a time. It occasionally happened that a neighbouring farmer would call and join in the friendly chat. Tales of difficulties overcome were told, just as the sailor spins his yarn, or the soldier recounts his experiences on the battle-field. It might be in shepherding the flock, or in husbanding the grain, that something unusual had occurred. Harry listened attentively to what was said by these veteran farmers. He could not but feel surprise at some of their exploits. He had never himself had such difficulties to contend with as he heard related. Take a single case.

A man had purchased fifty sheep at a fair on one occasion, and at eight o'clock on a winter's night had to drive them a

distance of fifteen miles. For the first three or four miles the road was all that could be desired, perfectly straight and level ; but it afterwards branched off into two or three directions, and it was not easy to decide which was the one to follow to reach the required destination. What was to be done ? The snow began to descend, and the situation was anything but a pleasing one. Whilst hesitating as to what would be the best course to adopt, a step was heard, and, waiting a little time, a man came up, and replying to the remark that it was a stormy night, said it was, but that he hoped he would soon be at home, as he had only a mile farther to go. Being asked if he knew which road would lead to the destination of the owner of the sheep, he said he was not certain, but would advise that the road upon which he was walking should be selected. This advice was acted upon, and so the two started together. When they had journeyed for about half a mile, the wind began to blow furiously, and so with quickened steps the travellers pushed forward. At length the home of the one who had come up with the other was reached, and he cordially invited his companion into the house to share his supper with him. The sheep were turned into a small pasture near the house, and allowed to remain until the owner was willing to resume his journey. In the course of half an hour he was ready to start, the wind in the meantime having somewhat abated. His host ventured to accompany him for a few hundred yards, and then, wishing him God-speed, left him. The moon began to shine shortly afterwards, and there seemed every probability of the remainder of the journey being made under more favourable circumstances. The sheep kept well together, their owner recognised the district, and by this

means knew that he was on the right road for his home. Probably two-thirds of the distance, or ten miles, had been traversed, when one of the sheep gave indications of being lame. They had not proceeded much farther when it completely broke down. Looking around, there appeared to be a farmstead about a quarter of a mile distant ; hence the man thought that he would allow the sheep to remain, and he would go forward to ascertain if any assistance could be obtained, or what method could be adopted to remove the sheep which had become lame. On arriving at the house he discovered that the inmates were all in bed, but on looking around the buildings he saw that there was a small shed which was empty ; and as there was a wheelbarrow standing not far off, he determined to borrow it, to bring the sheep in it, and to place it in the empty compartment.

This was at length accomplished, and the homeward journey was resumed ; but there was yet another difficulty in store. A gate leading into a field had been left open, and, before the sheep could be prevented, they had passed into the field. It required considerable effort to get them on to the road again, for having once entered the field they were reluctant to leave it. They were, however, eventually driven out, and in the course of an hour and a half they arrived at their destination. It was then two o'clock in the morning, and the owner of the sheep was heartily glad that he had reached home with his charge. He placed them in a shed, and as speedily as possible aroused his family and retired to rest. The following morning he took the spring-cart and pony, and went for the sheep which had been placed in one of the buildings of the farmhouse by the way. An

explanation was given to the farmer of the circumstances under which it had been left, and he was quite satisfied.

Other tales more or less similar in character were told by those who assembled around the winter's fire. It was a peculiar pleasure to the farmers to discuss their experiences in dealing with the stock, and oftentimes they would tell of the profit, or, it might be, loss, they had experienced in their transactions. It not infrequently occurred that some exceptional bargains had been made, and these being impressed upon their minds, they were glad to speak of them; for a farmer is as wishful to show that he is master of his calling as any of the tradesmen or professional men of the country.

If a man is succeeding in any business or undertaking, there is no need for him to hide the fact, though he need not always be sounding it aloud. In many instances, however, there is positive proof in a man's farm as to whether or not he is making satisfactory progress. If a man be neglectful, does not bestir himself, does not 'make hay whilst the sun shines,' he ought not to be disappointed if he does not succeed, nor if his capital becomes dwarfed and his resources crippled. Farming is not a game of chance, but an occupation which, under favourable conditions, will repay the man who engages in it. The words 'favourable conditions' have reference to fine seasons, well-arranged farms, and fairly good land. There is an old saying that 'there is nothing more honest than land;' hence if it be properly tilled, the result will generally be all that can be desired; but if an indifference in cultivation be manifested, then there will inevitably be failure and loss. This being so, it is a mistake to suppose that the life of a farmer is one of comparative ease. The demand is for deter-

mined and earnest effort; and if this be responded to, no anxiety need be felt as to the result.

Harry had by this time gained considerable knowledge as to the crops to be grown in succession, or when the land should be ploughed and remain in fallow; he had also begun to recognise the value of the cattle, sheep, and pigs, as well as the horses. He had grown strong and vigorous, and had become very helpful in cultivating the farm. He was, in fact, developing into a practical farmer. Steady and persevering, he could be trusted; honest and faithful at work, he could be relied on. He had gained the confidence of those by whom he was surrounded, and he did not betray it. He resolutely pressed forward with his work, and concentrated his attention on what he was engaged upon. Under such circumstances, it is not surprising that he excelled in his avocation, and had an ambition to become the master of a farm. He hoped then to bring into active operation all the latent powers which he thought he possessed. Certain improvements suggested themselves to his mind, and he was wishful to adopt them. True, they were not of great magnitude, but they would in his opinion facilitate the working. There was a conspicuous saving in manual labour, and this was an advantage. A saving effected, he was told, was an equivalent to so much earned.

About this time Harry received an invitation to spend a fortnight with a friend who was engaged in farming. The busy season had passed, and there was not so great a demand for labour; hence there was no reason why the invitation should not be accepted. Accordingly he wrote off by the next post to his friend, and agreed to visit him. Having made all necessary preparations, and bid farewell to his friends, he started

on his journey on the day arranged. He arrived quite safely, and was cordially received. The two friends speedily renewed their acquaintance, and it was not long before they adjourned to the farm buildings to look at the cattle and horses, many of which were of the highest order. Harry felt considerable interest in inspecting the stock of his friend, and he was not surprised to learn that many prizes had been won at the agricultural shows at which the animals had been exhibited. On the morrow it was proposed to look over the farm, and see the operations which were being conducted; but for the present it was thought desirable to return to the house and rest awhile, as Harry was somewhat exhausted with his journey. The conversation carried on related to farming; the prospects, and what was the best course to follow under certain given circumstances. Opinions were freely expressed, and the time glided along until the hour arrived for retiring for the night. Next morning Harry and his friend were astir early, and immediately after breakfast they set out to inspect the farm. The men were proceeding briskly with ploughing. Some of the fields gave evidence of having been sown with wheat, whilst in another field the turnips were being taken up by a band of workers. Cattle and sheep were browsing in the pastures, and in an adjoining field were some young horses feeding. The hay and cornstacks had all been thatched, and presented a neat appearance. There was an air of contentment amongst the men who worked on the farm, an indication that they were cared for and sufficiently paid for their services.

It is needless to say that Harry enjoyed his visit very much. He was acquainted with the methods of working, and was

enabled to appreciate the end and aims followed. The men were glad to have him amongst them. They recognised in him a high-spirited and courageous, albeit a kind-hearted, young man, and the consideration he extended to others rebounded in a similar consideration for his own feelings. Some of the men employed on the farm were very intelligent, and during his visit Harry had an opportunity of learning their views on various subjects. They did not approve of a man having a larger farm than his capital would allow him to manage properly. Better, said they, have a farm which can be supplied with stock and well worked, and so avoid having to pay rent for land which does not bring any advantage. It occurred to Harry that this was an extremely sensible statement to make. He knew of men who were doing well on a small farm; but not content with their lot, aspired to take a larger farm, and when this came about, they found that they had not sufficient capital, the result being that they lost some of their money. It might be that the men worked hard, and tried their best to succeed; but their responsibilities were too great, and in the end they learnt that they had made a mistake.

It is 'right to endeavour to make advancement in life, but a discreet course of action should be observed. Steady perseverance will probably achieve as much as a 'venture' which has not been fully considered. 'Things are not what they seem,' and it may be discovered that what appeared to be an advantage was really a loss. It is important that no effort should be spared, but that each man should do the best he can in his holding, and remember the old proverb, that 'a rolling stone gathers no moss.' It must not, however, be taken as granted that it is undesirable under any circumstances

to change. Those people who find that they cannot hope to succeed on the farms they occupy, should search out other farms without delay.

Another opinion held by the labourers engaged on the farm of Harry's friend was, that a farmer should have a sufficient number of horses and men to perform the work required at the proper time. By the want of this, great loss is often experienced; *e.g.*, if a farmer has not a good staff, he will be unable to reap the crops when they are ripe, and will not be able to have the land ploughed and the seed sown when the weather is favourable for the purpose. Many a farmer has learnt to his cost the folly of not employing the proper number of men, and neglecting to have a full complement of horses. If a farmer is to make satisfactory progress, he must have such a staff of men as shall enable him to meet all requirements; for those who have the most assistance frequently find that they have difficulty in getting through all the work which is required. True, an additional man or two, or an extra horse, adds to the expense incurred; but if this is more than counterbalanced by the profit derived, then it commends itself as being the best course to follow.

It is important that a subject of this character should be fully considered, and, if approved, the suggestions carefully acted upon. If a farmer is not fully prepared to carry on his business with the certainty of success, so far as he is enabled to command this, his position is not an enviable one. The steady and persevering farmer who has the aid of faithful workmen may hope to save money, but negligence or indifference brings its own reward. Indeed, it will speedily be apparent whether there is a determination to progress or a feebleness of purpose

which can attain nothing. The land must be well cultivated, otherwise no satisfactory result need be expected. It is very unlikely that anyone who does not aspire to excel will achieve success; but the man who will not readily yield may rest assured that he will eventually win the victory. Patience and perseverance foreshadow a triumph in that which engages the attention.

There was another opinion held by the labourers on the farm of Harry's friend, which was a very commendable one. It was that a farmer should be temperate in his habits and consistent in his conduct. They said that if a man did not keep from intoxicating liquor, and was irregular in fulfilling his duties, it was probable that he would make but slight advancement; for they appropriately remarked that if the servants see their master wanting in self-restraint, and negligent in meeting the obligations which devolve upon him, they will copy his example. If he be not punctual in his engagements, or does not act faithfully by those who are connected with him in the cultivation of his farm, he will find that his men will speedily become careless and indifferent, will lose all interest in the transaction of their duties, and desire only that the hour to leave work may arrive. If a master be intemperate, he cannot complain of any of his men being also intemperate. 'Reform begins at home,' so runs the proverb; and if a farmer would have his men to be temperate, he must himself see that he does not transgress the bounds of sobriety. There is no doubt that more decided progress will be made with the work required to be done on the farm if there be confidence between employer and employed. If a master wishes his men to act fairly by him, he should treat them accordingly, and the result

will usually be all that can be desired. This mutual regard for each other should be the basis on which operations are conducted. Without it there will possibly be disappointment in what is achieved. The servant should identify his master's interest with his own, and should be anxious to promote it to the best of his ability. When this is apparent the master should not fail to show his appreciation.

By the statements made, Harry discovered that the farm labourers had very clear and proper views on what should be the aims and methods followed by those who engage in farming operations. He learnt that they were in the habit of using their minds as well as their hands, and were thus in a position to speak with considerable assurance in regard to the management of a farm. They were men who had a knowledge of farming in all its branches, and having a tolerable amount of discrimination, they were enabled to distinguish between the effect of the labours of men who were steady and persevering and that of men who were negligent and careless.

Harry's visit was drawing to a close. It had, however, been very enjoyable, and Harry was somewhat reluctant to take leave of his friend. Pleasant impressions had been made which would not soon be forgotten. The acquaintance having been renewed, the friendship between the two young men became stronger. When Harry arrived at his uncle's he had a great amount of information to impart as to the work which was in progress on the farm of his friend. He had to tell of the horses, the cattle, and other animals which were located on the farm. Their superiority, which at the first sight occurred to him, was the principal theme of conversation. Considerable curiosity was aroused as to the

relative merits of the cattle compared with ordinary kinds. That they were more valuable was not doubted ; but whether the profit accruing from the sale of them would be greater was not so certain. More care and attention were required, and the risk was considerable if any of them should be ill, and the loss heavy if they should die. All points considered, however, the preponderance of opinion was in favour of having prize cattle if they could be obtained at reasonable prices ; but there is often a difficulty in regard to this, as they are scarce and consequently dear. The horses were strong and powerful, and being well fed, it was no difficulty to them to perform the work required. The owner knew the secret of inducing his horses to do the labour imposed upon them. He dealt liberally with them, gave them plenty of hay and corn, and saw that they were well brushed and rubbed at night. This caused them always to be able to pull a heavy load, or to perform any extra service which might be needed. They were never jaded in appearance, but were as ready to proceed at the close of a day's work as they were at the commencement, and were brisk and active in their work.

PART III.

HARRY had now attained to manhood, and he arranged to begin farming on his own account. He expected to become more proficient as he was left to his own resources, and he was wishful to assume greater responsibility than had been his lot hitherto. He really liked farming. The fresh air was invigorating, and the freedom of life left nothing to be desired. True, a great amount of labour was in demand, but Harry did not mind this. He was well able to work, and he preferred being employed to being idle. He was determined that he would make every effort to succeed—that he would, if possible, make advancement in the occupation he had adopted. He would endeavour to bring into operation the advice which had been tendered to him by those who had spent many years in farming; and having had considerable experience himself, as well as being of an observant disposition, he held the hope that he would make headway. It was in no spirit of timidity that Harry entered into possession of his farm. The rent was a just one, and given favourable seasons, he had no doubt as to the result. Some young men might have felt afraid of such an undertaking; whilst others might have been too confident, and neglected to take ordinary precautions. Harry

knew that a strong and determined course of action would have to be followed, and he prepared himself accordingly. He was resolved to do his best under the circumstances.

It was necessary to make sundry purchases before entering upon the farm. Horses and implements were bought, as well as half a dozen cows, a number of sheep, and the utensils required in the dairy. This list by no means comprised the whole of the animals and articles obtained. There were many more requisites which were purchased, but what has been stated were the chief or most important of the bargains made. Harry was resolved to have young and useful horses. He expected by this means to get through the work more quickly. There would be greater satisfaction than if old and worn-out horses had been bought which, if less in price, were inferior in strength and speed. Harry thought that by purchasing horses which were young, he had a certain amount of assurance that the money he expended upon them would be realized if at any time he were wishful to sell them; for their value was likely to increase, whilst the reverse applied to old horses. The same plan was followed in regard to cows: those which were of the age of two or three years were bought. Harry was anxious to have his farm supplied with such animals as would be likely to be profitable to him. He had no objection to spend a little money, so long as he could be assured that what was purchased would be a valuable addition to his farming-stock. He aimed to have such animals as would be a credit to him; and as he was about to make a start on his own account he thought it best to have a good beginning.

There were many duties devolving upon Harry at such a time; he was kept fully engaged. Now he was off to the

fair held at a neighbouring town, and entering into a long discussion with a dealer as to the value of a horse. If the account given was correct, it was all that could be desired—reliable, sound in every part, tractable and strong; but Harry knew that to a very great extent he must be guided by his own observation. He therefore desired that the animal might be trotted for a short distance to see how it placed its feet; he looked into its mouth to ascertain from its teeth the probable age of it; and it was only when he was quite satisfied that it was a promising young horse that he made an offer for it, and eventually bought it. A farmer who resided a short distance from Harry had a horse which he was wishful to dispose of. He had not taken it to the fair, as he had not got it into such a condition as to make it saleable at that place. Harry knew that the horse was likely to be a useful one—that in all probability it would develop into a strong and powerful animal, and under these circumstances he was desirous to buy it. Terms were arranged, and Harry became the owner of this horse also. Then there were implements to purchase. It was necessary to visit an agent for the sale of the various implements of husbandry, and to make a selection of what was required. Ploughs were obtained, harrows, roller, etc., and other minor articles used in farm-work. Harry purchased only such implements as were of the most improved make, and likely to be durable. It was not difficult to obtain such articles as were required in the cultivation of the farm.

The supply is not infrequently in excess of the demand. So many people are wishful to dispose of implements which have been made at some of the large works, that the question is not where to buy the articles which are required, but which

to buy. At the majority of the depositories good and useful implements may be purchased if a little discretion be used.

It was not so easy to buy the cows with which Harry purposed to supply his farm. He had to make several excursions before he could obtain what he wished to have. Then there were the dairy utensils to be purchased. This, however, was soon accomplished, as not many articles were required.

It was some little time before Harry was fairly settled in his new domain. A great many purchases had to be made, and the arranging of the various articles called for attention. At last, however, he was enabled to commence tilling the land. He had secured the services of two men, and expected that he would speedily have the land ploughed and otherwise prepared for sowing the seed. When all the work which was required had been completed, Harry felt at liberty to look around. The fences had to be made good, and to be cut so as to present a shapely appearance. This could not be done at once. The most needful work was undertaken and performed. Then there was the pasture and meadow land to examine and to clear of all loose stones and other unnecessary articles which by one means or another had accumulated on it. Manure had to be carted on to the meadow land, spread upon it, and afterwards to be brushed in. The cattle were fed with the provender available—turnips, and the like ; and oats and beans were procured for the horses. The amount of work required of the horses was such that it was necessary that they should have good food, and this was especially seen to.

Harry gave every attention to the duties which devolved upon him. He rose early in the morning, looked at the stock

in the field adjoining his house to ascertain that they were all right, and then returned to breakfast, having gained a good appetite by this exercise. After breakfast he inspected the stables and cow-byres, and then went off to the fields to aid in the work which was being transacted there. His life was an active one. He gave himself fully to the avocation which he had selected, and he had hopes that he would be successful in it. Every day brought its meed of work, and it was necessary that perseverance should be manifested, otherwise loss would be experienced. What Harry wished to inculcate upon his men was that they should diligently perform the work required of them, and he would compensate them by allowing them an occasional holiday, and would be punctual in releasing them from their labours at a certain given hour each day; and whilst he followed this method of dealing with his assistants, Harry was careful himself to set a good example by joining in the work which was undertaken. This had an excellent effect. The men worked willingly when they saw their master sharing their labours, and they knew that he was considerate of their feelings.

The friction which frequently occurs between employer and employed arises to a great extent from not having a regard for each other. The master does not consider the wishes of the servant, and he in turn thinks lightly of the interests of his master. This divergence leads to dissatisfaction, and eventually a change of servants takes place, which in the majority of instances is most undesirable. Such would probably not have occurred if there had been a little thoughtfulness displayed on the part of the employer and employed for the aims and desires of each other. There should be an

equal determination that the aid rendered to one another shall have its reward, that the consideration of the master for the servant shall be honoured by a steady and persistent effort to please him in the performance of the work to be executed ; and, in like manner, the master should have in mind the aspirations of those he employs, and should aid them as far as possible. Thus good feeling is engendered, and it is to the advantage of those concerned. Harry was resolved that he would not give any cause for complaint on this account. As we have seen, he acted liberally towards his men, and in conversation with them he ascertained what were their aims and how he could benefit them. He paid them good wages, and conferred several favours upon them. It was not surprising, under these circumstances, that the farm was kept in good order, that the stock were well attended to, and that everything was in a prosperous condition. When Harry had to leave on business, he felt confident that all would proceed as satisfactorily as if he had been at home. Indeed, he invariably found that even greater care was exhibited when he was absent, as the men realized the responsibility resting upon them, and sought to discharge their obligations to the best of their ability. They were desirous to show that they studied their master's interests, and would not allow them to suffer by his being away from the farm.

The way opened out for Harry to make the acquaintance of some of the most experienced agriculturists, and he learnt what were their views on farming prospects. He discovered that many of them were in favour of rearing cattle and making them fat for the butcher, in preference to sowing so much grain and relying to such an extent upon the cereals.

The great quantity of good corn which is annually imported, makes the home-grown corn to sell at a less price than it would otherwise do ; hence the farmer must give more attention to cattle, as by this means he will be enabled to recoup himself, and have a margin of profit into the bargain. This course can, however, only be followed where the land is of such a quality that cattle can be fed without difficulty. On some farms there is a lamentable deficiency of pasture land, and, as a consequence, the farmer is precluded from feeding cattle as he might otherwise do. All that can be done under these circumstances is to make the most of the arable land, or to persuade the landlord to have the most stubborn land sown with grass seed. By the word 'stubborn' land is meant that land which is strong and unyielding. It is possible greatly to improve land by the use of lime and manure, and attention should be paid to this by those who are desirous to see their land grow good crops.

Where there is a desire to progress, means will be found to overcome any obstacles which may be experienced ; indeed, it is surprising what may be accomplished on some farms where the surroundings are of an unpromising character. The mode of procedure adopted by farmers who are aware how to obtain what is required, will cause those who are not fully acquainted with farming and are unversed in the general rules to be followed, some degree of astonishment. The farmer who has profited by his observations, and learnt from what he has had to endure, will follow a plan of his own, and it will no doubt have the desired effect. The steady and resolute conduct of a man who has a knowledge of the treatment to which unyielding land should be subjected, is

calculated to win the approval of those who are onlookers of what is attempted ; for if there is one thing more than another in which the farmer rejoices, it is to know that when difficulties in cultivation appeared almost insurmountable, some one has shown that he can subdue the opposition which was apparent, and by one means or another make an obdurate piece of land fertile and useful. The only drawback in such a case as this is that valuable time is often expended, and the return made is not at first satisfactory. It may possibly be a year or two before the farmer is repaid for all his efforts, but the certainty of it is beyond question. When the most experienced men strive to bring into proper order sterile and obdurate land, we may rest assured that their efforts will be invariably crowned with success. They will bring into action the readiest and likeliest means of attaining their object.

As a practical man who has had experience is trusted in any other branch of business, so the farmer who is fully acquainted with tilling the land should be allowed to act as he thinks best, and his efforts should be judged by the result. How many difficulties have been overcome successfully, not in farming alone, but in engineering and other arts which have occupied the attention of men ? 'To do and dare' should be the motto of farmers as of any other body of men, and the remark of Napoleon to one of his generals, that there should not be such a word as 'impossible,' is equally applicable.

Harry's land was fairly good in quality, and he had very little difficulty with it. All that was required was to get it into a condition for the various crops. That this was so afforded him no small degree of pleasure, for he was not desirous to have to bring stubborn land into a serviceable

state. He looked on at any attempts of such a character, and was glad that he was not required to undertake them on his own account. Ofttimes, however, he aided those who were not so fortunate as himself in having productive land, in their endeavours to improve or reclaim some of their land. He would take a pair of horses and one of his men, and give his friend a day's ploughing or other work which was needed to be done.

The farms required all the care which could be bestowed upon them, for it was surprising how soon weeds and plants of an undesirable nature made their appearance. The readiness with which these visitors revealed themselves was remarkable. The utmost that could be done was inadequate to keep them in subjection, as they grew with great rapidity. There was a danger, too, of injuring the young plants of corn whilst endeavouring to clear the land of weeds, for the weeds had become so intermixed with the corn, that it was almost impossible to get them separated. An experienced worker, however, could make considerable progress in the complicated task. He speedily detected what required to be removed, and was enabled to take it from amongst the young corn without in any way causing injury to the young plants. It occurred to Harry that much labour might be saved by the use of machines which are obtainable for clearing off the weeds, and accordingly he made arrangements to be supplied with them. He wrote to a friend to ascertain what were his views on the subject, and he was advised that it was a very commendable course to follow; he therefore gave instructions to one of his men to go to the town and make a selection of such implements as he thought necessary, and to

inform the tradesman that he would send for the articles. The man made one or two purchases, and it was decided that there would be the least inconvenience if the carts were taken at once to the shop and the articles loaded into them. By this means it was probable that no breakages would occur, and the implements would speedily be delivered at their destination. Harry was well satisfied with the steps taken, and when he saw the rapidity with which the weeds and other obnoxious plants were cut down, he was very glad that he had been led to instruct his man to make the bargains he had. The crops were much more healthy and vigorous when the weeds were removed ; indeed, there was every reason to expect that such would be the case, for the weed sucked up much of the moisture which the young plants of corn would have done under other circumstances.

Just about this time Harry received a visit from the friend whom he had previously been to see, as is recorded earlier in this narrative. Harry was pleased to ascertain that he cordially approved of the methods which had been adopted, and that he freely gave several suggestions which were valuable. He said he should advise that the money which was often spent in obtaining artificial manure should be spent in the purchase of that which was likely to make the land more fertile and benefit it for a term of years ; 'for,' said he, 'if you use a great quantity of artificial manure, you exhaust the land, and in succeeding years it cannot grow such good crops as it would do if it had been supplied with that which would have permanently improved it.' Another suggestion made by Harry's friend was to the effect that he thought it best to cut the hedges and clean out the ditches in the spring ; 'for,' said he, 'if you allow

the hedges to grow year by year, without doing anything to them, they will become strong and unwieldy, and do positive injury to the land adjoining them. They will deprive the land of that which would have benefited it, and by keeping off the sun will retard the growth of the crops. Then the ditches should be kept open, so that the water which finds its way into them may run into the main drains, and not remain and so force its way over the side and flood the land.'

Nothing is more satisfactory than to behold farms with the fences cut and the ditches cleared of all refuse, and serving the end for which they are designed. The greatest improvement which can be effected in land is to have it well drained. Acres upon acres of what would have been good and serviceable land is only partially productive, owing to its not being drained ; and this is a loss alike to the landlord and the tenant. For if the tenant does not obtain from the land the crop which he has a right to expect, he cannot feed the same number of cattle he otherwise would do, nor will he have the same amount of grain to dispose of, and hence he will be a loser ; and the landlord will be in a similar position, as he will not receive a very high rent for his farm. Money cannot be better spent, so far as farming is concerned, than in draining land ; for the farmer may rest assured that he will have vastly increased crops when this is carried out, especially so if the land is of a strong clayey nature, for it is the class of land which suffers most from not being drained. It will soon be apparent that an advantage is gained by draining land, for the grass in the pastures and meadows will be superior in quality ; there will also be an increase in the herbage. In the arable land the crops of corn will be more healthy and vigorous. The

blue appearance of a field of young corn (indicative of too much water in the land) will give place to a lively green or yellow. There is, however, a possibility of draining pasture or meadow land to a greater extent than is desirable; but having regard to the seasons, this is no doubt the lesser of two evils, for it generally happens that more water is in the land than should be. The hilly parts may not require to be drained, but the base of the hills and the land around will need to be well drained, as the water will, as a matter of course, find its way there. The great drawback in connection with farming is the reluctance on the part of many who engage in it to lay out a little capital. Many who would be likely to succeed if only they would discreetly spend their money, fail to make any advancement from the timidity they display in expending some of their capital. Possibly they think that if once they spend some money they may be unable to get it back again; but there should be no difficulty in this, for it is dreadfully uphill work to make anything out with limited means. If cattle be not bought, how can profit be derived from this source? If tillage be not obtained, the crop will be deficient. If the landlord will not perform the necessary repairs, and make the alterations and improvements which legitimately belong to him, how can he expect the farm to let at a good rental? There is a duty to perform on the part of those who engage in farming pursuits, and if the least hesitancy be displayed, the consequences will be discouraging: the profit realized will be small, and it will not infrequently occur that, instead of distinct advancement being made, retrogression will be apparent. The movement will admit of no delay, but progress must be assured, otherwise disappointment

will be experienced. The skilful farmer will make the most of his resources, will husband his powers so that they may be concentrated only on that which will bring him the greatest advantage, having regard, however, to that which will be calculated to give satisfaction in the efforts put forth—*i.e.*, the knowledge of cattle having been fed until they are fat and weigh a considerable weight, is pleasing to the farmer; for, apart from the amount realized by the sale of them, there is the fact of their being animals which bring credit upon him as a successful feeder of live stock. The neighbouring farmers will look upon him as an authority in rearing and feeding cattle; for, whilst there may be many who say that they understand the course of conduct to follow, yet facts speak louder than words, and such an illustration as the one in question is positive proof of the advantage of the method adopted. Care must be bestowed on the several departments of farming, and then an honourable expectation of success may be entertained. If a farmer does not give his best attention to the crops, it is possible that they will not be so fruitful as they otherwise would be. Perfection cannot be attained without effort, but the man who is determined that his farm shall be a model of good cultivation, may without much difficulty bring it into this condition. Harry was determined that, so far as he was able, he would carry into execution the various suggestions made to him, knowing full well the importance of them. So far as the draining was concerned, he would speak to his landlord on the subject, and endeavour to induce him to do what was required, and he would freely assist in leading the pipes necessary for the work to the fields where they were to be put in. He was desirous that, so far as he

could, he would make his land capable of growing good crops.

The various alterations which were made on the farm which Harry occupied had the effect of making it to be more readily cultivated. The fields gave evidence of the draining and other improvements which had been carried out. The appearance was, however, of less consequence than the real and permanent improvements which had taken place in the land. The ploughing land had been greatly benefited by the lime and manure which had been brought on to it. The pastures and meadows were rich in herbage, which the cattle greedily devoured. The men employed on the farm were in good spirits at the efforts which were made. The prevailing idea was to get along with the work which was required to be done, and then to have some simple amusement at night; to have a game at quoits, or it may be cricket, in the summer-time, whilst in the winter to play at draughts or other kindred games. Life was by this means made pleasant, and the men were disposed to work with greater zest when they had had a little enjoyment. The great source of pleasure was, however, when the several men of the adjoining farms and the village met together and entered into competition in foot-races and leaping. These gatherings, held once or twice per year, gave an incentive to the labours of the men. They were more than ever disposed to do what was required of them. When the weather was unfavourable for these outdoor sports, the men would invent some other means of letting off the exuberance of their spirits. They met together in a barn, and tried their skill in various games in which agility and strength were combined. Wrestling was indulged in, and many a hearty laugh

was enjoyed at the twisting and twirling of the several antagonists. When the games were over a general conversation ensued on the merits or demerits of those who had taken part in them, and it not infrequently occurred that there was a wrangle as to what had taken place. One man would be the favourite of some individual, and he would give him unstinted praise, whilst the *modus operandi* of another would win the approbation of some one else, and it might be that a third person was called for to decide the question at issue. Thus the games formed a topic for conversation for some time to come. No one was any the worse for this, for the mind being engaged, improper thoughts were kept out.

Time glided smoothly along at the farm. There was very little to break the monotony which resulted from the cultivation of the land. Day by day something called for attention; and so the seasons wore on. There were, however, occasions when more than ordinary activity was displayed. These were when the fairs drew near. The young horses or others which it was thought necessary to part with had to be specially attended to, so that they might be brought into a proper state or condition to be disposed of. At the fair all was bustle and excitement; knots of men were standing together bargaining, and horses were being trotted up and down the road to show how fast they could travel, or how firmly they placed their feet on the ground. Various attractions were present for the juveniles. There were shows in which all manner of curious sights were to be witnessed. A strange medley they were. Waxwork exhibitions, phantascope, animals with some peculiarity about them, giants, and a thousand-and-one other wonders which defied classification. Amid all the noise

and din which arose from the men in charge of the several exhibitions, who were seeking to impress upon the public the importance of entering and 'seeing for themselves,' there was the excited demonstration of the lower orders of the horse-dealing fraternity, who were seeking to come to terms in regard to an unpromising steed or two, the value of which would not exceed a sovereign. At other parts of the fair was heard the more subdued, but not more earnest, efforts of dealers who were wishful to purchase horses of greater value. The arguments advanced and offers made would have surprised any individual who was unaccustomed to horse-dealing. The several points of the horses were remarked upon, and the process of bargaining proceeded with. It might be that a high figure was asked by the owner of the horse, whilst the dealer or dealers would not give so much by a considerable amount ; then they would strive to arrive at an understanding. Probably the dealer would give a certain sum, but he would wish to have part of it returned ; and it sometimes occurs that this is the only difference between the two, the vendor and the would-be purchaser. Of course the dealer does not buy the horse to retain it, but he will sell it at the first opportunity, and hence he is desirous to purchase on reasonable terms. The horse having been bought, it is consigned to a depository ; but it may be, if the dealer finds that he has given too great a price, that he will determine not to have the horse, and whilst the person who has sold it congratulates himself on having concluded his business, he finds, to his chagrin, that he has to recommence negotiations, and endeavour to sell his horse to some other person. There is considerable double-dealing in the trade of horses, and no doubt much dissatisfaction ; but

when a person has a really good horse to dispose of, he can generally find a customer without much difficulty.

Harry proceeded cheerfully with the duties which devolved upon him. The training he had received eminently fitted him for the performance of what was required of him. Each day brought its obligations, which were faithfully discharged. Nothing was deferred until the morrow which could be accomplished at the time ; but there were occasions when a little relaxation might be enjoyed. The requirements of all having been met, Harry felt at liberty to spend his leisure in any manner which commended itself to him. He thought that he could not do better than join a Volunteer corps. The meetings were held two or three times per week, and the members attended fairly well, so that there was great satisfaction in associating with them. The young men really liked the drill, and they strove to become proficient. An active spirit was enkindled amongst the several volunteers, and they sought to excel in the various movements required of them. Round shoulders speedily disappeared under the influence of drill, and sprightly young men was the result. The shooting competition was a pleasure, and Harry joined heartily in it. There were many gatherings of this nature, and often on Saturday afternoons, when practice in firing was being carried on, there were a number of people present. When the men had become efficient, a sham fight and review were held, and the officers met together and passed opinions on the several qualifications of the volunteers, and what services they would render in the event of war.

One method of preventing war is to be ready for it, for if a nation learns that another nation is not well prepared to

defend its interests, it is a temptation to it to interfere with the rights of that nation. That peace should prevail is the great desideratum, but for people to be indifferent as to armaments is not the way to ensure this. No doubt there have been instances where nations have thought that they were better equipped for war than some other nation, and have been led to challenge that nation. This may not have been brought about directly, but indirectly. A little jealousy is calculated to do a great amount of harm, and it is not easy to repair the breach when once it occurs. The confidence which should be the safeguard of nations having been broken, there is constant distrust, and it is difficult to restrain opposing forces. It becomes a question of strength, and the bloodshed and expense entailed have no consideration. That such ideas are cherished by those who should live in peaceful amity is to be deplored. It gives evidence of a very ungracious feeling on the part of those concerned. Too often regard is not paid to what might have been achieved by diplomacy, and disastrous wars are needlessly undertaken. The soldier, however, likes war ; he grows weary of being prepared, and is delighted when an opportunity occurs for testing the knowledge he possesses. When war breaks out soldiers are in demand, and as their absence would leave the powder magazines and armouries unprotected, other men are called upon to take their places. The Army Reserve men usually do this, but, if it became necessary, the Volunteers would be required to do the work. It is therefore evident that the duties of Volunteers are of a prospective character ; but it is an advantage to know that they would do their duty. The personal benefit accruing from being a Volunteer is great. The drilling

develops the muscles, and makes a man what he ought to be—straight and erect, and able to use his arms freely.

When Harry was at liberty he visited his friends, who were located on the borders of the adjoining county, and had good land to cultivate. He was gratified to renew his acquaintance, and was received with considerable enthusiasm. All were anxious to know what were his experiences, and how he had progressed. True, letters had passed, but they did not convey such complete information as could be given verbally. There was a strong inclination on the part of Harry to show the superiority of the methods he adopted over those which were followed in the early history of agriculture. He was only conservative in that from which a decided advantage could be gained. Because a method was a new one, he would not condemn it if he thought it would in any way contribute to the well-being of the stock, or render the labour involved less. The various schemes were for lightening the labours of the men, or for more expeditiously preserving the fodder for the cattle and horses. The reaper and binder was a serviceable machine, and rapid progress could be made by it in the harvest time, an advantage of no mean consequence. A question which engaged some attention was whether grass could be successfully stored in a pit, or silo, and used during the winter as a substitute for hay. The trials made by various gentlemen interested in agriculture had the effect of answering the problem in the affirmative. There was indisputable evidence that if the grass were compressed it would be preserved with all its nutrition, the only difference being an alteration in the colour, the green being superseded by a brown or dingy yellow. Many people were difficult to convince of the prac-

ticability of having green fodder during the winter months. Even when they saw abundant proof of the advantages to be gained, they hesitated to accept the conclusions. That there is some expense involved cannot be doubted, but the same applies to implements which no farmer would think of being without. The purchase of a horse-rake involves some outlay, but, when obtained, it will last for a length of time. There are generally some useless buildings about a farmstead which could easily be converted into suitable places in which to store grass, and when the necessary pressure can be secured, nothing remains to be desired.

Harry was well pleased with the welcome he received at the hands of his friends, and when he had given them full particulars of his experiences in farming, he was anxious to learn what had transpired since he left. He was surprised to see that many things were vastly different to what they were when he removed to his farm. The land was in good condition, no doubt owing to the fact that the winter had been marked by severe frost ; the young horses had developed into useful animals, and the old ones, with the exception of one or two, had been sold. The cattle were more numerous, and the sheep and pigs. The men who were at the farm when Harry was staying at it, were still there, and had become quite as interested in the work which was being carried on as the friends of Harry themselves. The acquaintance was again renewed, and many a chat Harry had with the men. They were very glad to impart their ideas as to the methods adopted and the rules followed. The efforts they had put forth had led them to conclude that they were entitled to speak with assurance as to what steps should be

taken to ensure a certain given result; *e.g.*, they said it was important that a farmer should not overcrop his land; that it was better to have it laid in fallow a year than to crop it year by year, as by that means he would be sure to have a good crop when he expected it. Another idea which the men cherished was to the effect that, so far as they could judge, it was unwise to attempt to rear a number of sheep on those farms where the land is soft and spongy. They thought that it was on farms which were perfectly dry, either from drainage or by their being situated in an elevated position, that sheep could thrive and be remunerative. The loss of sheep when the season is unfavourable, or when the land is not suitable for them, is often very great. Whole flocks die, and this is a serious drawback to the farmers. If, however, the land be such that sheep can be kept on it without fear of injury, then it would be wise to have them. Another point which should have attention—at least so the labourers thought—was that it is undesirable to stock a farm with cattle or horses, if there is not sufficient for them to eat. As it is a mistake to have too large a farm, *i.e.* one that cannot be fully stocked, so it is unwise to obtain more stock than can be accommodated. Both sides of the question require consideration. If cattle be purchased and cannot be fed sufficiently, they will not improve, and no profit will be derived; and in the same way, if cattle be not bought when there is a quantity of herbage, a loss is sustained.

Better ideas than those which were promulgated by the men engaged at the farm could not well have been brought forward. They were most correct, and the outcome of the firm conviction of those who gave expression to them.

It was no desire to bring themselves into prominence which induced them to speak as they did, but the aim of benefiting Harry, and to make known that they were not mere cyphers, but could use their minds as well as their hands. Because a man occupies a humble position in life, this is no reason why he should not have a knowledge of the proper methods to follow in his especial avocation. Of one thing the men were very certain, that, as far as they knew, it was the best plan to aid each other in the transaction of the affairs of life. Unity is strength, and what cannot be achieved by one person alone may be carried out when he is assisted. There should be no cold indifference as to the weal of our fellow-men, but a loyal regard for each other. Help is often as great a boon to a man who has difficulties to contend with, as any other blessing which could be conferred upon him. A little practical sympathy is at once inspiring and pleasing. It carries with it more real advantage than a multitude of polished phrases.

With the majority of those who are permitted to attend the various efforts made to win the crops when they are ripe, there is a disposition to work to the extent of their ability, so that there may not be any loss by the weather proving to be unfavourable. There should be no reluctance displayed on an occasion like this. The harvest is a critical time, and if there be not a determination to make progress whilst the sun shines, the rain may come and do a great amount of injury to the corn. Many farmers are aware of this ; but they do not strive to have the corn stacked so soon as they might. There is frequent communication between those who are similarly engaged in the harvest-time. At night, when numbers return to their

homes from the fields, considerable merriment is indulged in. The calm and quiet of the surrounding country is enlivened by merry peals of laughter and joyous exclamations. The gladness experienced by young and old is an evidence of the regard which exists between them. No hesitancy is manifested in performing the necessary amount of work until the harvest is reaped and successfully carried to the stackyard. At the close there will probably be a joyous gathering of the whole of the men who had been employed at the farm, and others who had been invited by them. The farmer rejoices that the corn is all brought into the stackyard, and the workmen are glad that their labours have been brought to a satisfactory close. The next question which calls for attention is the threshing of the corn, and some anxiety is manifested until it is ascertained what the yield is likely to be. Some farmers are in a better position to have good yielding corn than others. Even on moderate land there is not infrequently a great difference in this respect. Farms, of which the land is strong and clayey, have the reputation, in some instances, of growing corn which will yield well. This is an important factor in farming. Of course the seasons have a great effect on the crops, for, if the ears of corn are not well filled, the yield will not under any circumstances be satisfactory. Every effort made will be unavailable. Sunshine, with an occasional shower or two of rain, is required, and then the result will be all that can be desired.

There was one thing in which Harry was very particular, and that was, he would not have more work done on Sundays than he could possibly avoid. He instructed his men to perform all that was required during the six days ending on

Saturday night, and then there were only the horses to feed and other necessary duties to attend to on the Sabbath, and the men were able to recruit their energies and be present at Divine service. Harry knew quite well that no advantage would be gained by occupying the time which should be appropriated to rest and to spiritual worship in labour which might as readily have been performed during the week. The satisfaction derived by the rest of the Sabbath being strictly observed, spread a beneficial effect over the week. The men were refreshed and enabled to perform their duties with ease and readiness. They resumed their labours with alacrity, and entered into their engagements with a willingness which augured well for the performance of what was required of them. There is no doubt that, if the Sabbath be not observed in a proper manner, it is impossible satisfactorily to discharge the obligations for any length of time. It is on the Sabbath that the body is able to regain its normal state or condition after the loss it has sustained throughout the week. Viewed from any point, there is undoubted evidence of the importance of strictly honouring the Sabbath. If it be thought that any advancement will be made by appropriating this day to secular duties, the fact will reveal the contrary to be the case. Indeed, logically considered, it cannot be found to be satisfactory ; for if a man works continuously at any kind of employment, with little or no intermission, his energy will be exhausted, and he will be desirous to have a rest and change. If, however, the Sabbath be observed, the rest gained by it will equip the workman for the proper performance of his duties. It is quite clear that the man who has been refreshed by the rest of the Sabbath will be enabled to do his work

more efficiently than he who has been employed during that day. In addition to this, there is the specific command to 'keep holy the Sabbath day.' There is no alternative but to comply, unless this distinct requirement be wilfully neglected. As, however, it is clear that no advantage is gained by dishonouring the Sabbath, it appears most impolitic to do so. Men should work with a hearty goodwill during the six days allotted for secular duties, and then loyally attend to the claims of their God on the Sabbath.

Whenever Harry had an opportunity, he sought to benefit those who stood in need. He manfully strove to aid the suffering, and, to extend genuine sympathy and substantial assistance to those who were less fortunate than himself. A kind look, a cheerful word, were freely given to those who were struggling with difficulties, and many a person had reason to be thankful for the generous gifts which he dispensed. 'A friend in need is a friend indeed,' so runs the old saying, and Harry truly proved himself to be one who could feel for those who were in distress; and he sought to benefit those who were less fortunate than himself. That he found abundant opportunity to carry out his good intentions was only too evident; but, nothing daunted, he extended a helping hand to those who were in need. There are times in the history of most people when help from someone else is invaluable, and he does not deserve to be classed as a friend who does not willingly respond on such occasions.

One day, as Harry went on one of his missions of mercy, he met with a querulous old man who, in conversation, said that he was puzzled beyond degree with many of the dispensations of Providence. That which perplexed him most was,

how it occurred that many people were blessed with considerable affluence, whilst others had to work and make every effort in order to secure a livelihood. He considered that he himself exemplified this latter condition. He had to toil from morning till night, and had difficulty to make ends meet. He would gladly have had it otherwise ; to have possessed at least sufficient wealth to have permitted him to enjoy life ; and, if he had some portion of the money which belonged to the upper classes, he thought that there would be little else which he would require to complete his happiness. Harry questioned him on the subject. He asked him if he earned such a sum as enabled him to pay his way ? and, on learning that this was the case, he told him that all he required was to be content with his position. He added that it is a delusion to suppose that riches can bring happiness. This is a priceless treasure. Honest labour brings its own reward. There is an opinion frequently held by people whose circumstances are somewhat straitened, that if they possessed the wealth which belongs to the higher orders of society, they would be happy, and they become dissatisfied with their present state. This was evidently the case with the man in question. But riches bring obligations, and in many instances the men who are looked upon by others as being those who should be happy, would gladly have the repose of mind which springs from the steady pursuit of duties, the lot of those who have to earn their daily bread. The doubt which is experienced by some people on the subject ought to be dispelled, if a little thought were given to it. If only men can bring themselves to be content with the money which belongs to them, then all will be well ; but if once a man becomes dissatisfied, it is the

thin end of the wedge, and it is difficult to say where he will land. Wealth cannot purchase quietude of spirit and satisfaction of mind. These are invaluable, but it is often found that they are the result of earnest effort and steady perseverance.

There were one or two other things which puzzled the old man in question. He could not understand how it occurred that, whilst many people were blessed with good health and strength, others were compelled to remain in their room for years, and were unable to perform any kind of work. Their condition was such that their lives were a burden to them. They could not enjoy the pure air and take part in duties which would be calculated to arouse and revive them. Their lot was a hopeless one, and though there might be cheerful friends around them, they could not be the means of mitigating, to any great extent, the sufferings they endured.

Harry did not feel at liberty to deny the assertion made, and was not in a position to say how it was that such cases occurred ; but of one thing he was very certain, and that was that it should be the ambition of those who are in good health to aid those who are afflicted, to endeavour to soothe their pain and soften their hard lot by timely assistance. There is no reason why a man who enjoys good health, and whose circumstances are easy, should be indifferent to those who are not so favourably situated. 'Regard for each other' was a motto which Harry said he should like to see universally adopted. If men will not strive to aid each other, then life becomes almost unendurable to those who cannot help themselves. That the condition of some people is such as to evoke the deepest sympathy cannot be denied.

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The chronic state of dissatisfaction is very soon reached by men if they are liable to brood over their wrongs, and do not take into consideration the many boons and blessings they enjoy. If only men would have regard to the advantages they possess, and not seek after that which it is impossible for them to gain, they would find the affairs of life to glide more smoothly along, and they would make decided progress in their several avocations. The difficulty with some people is how to discharge their obligations in a satisfactory manner, and not to fret over that which they cannot by any means attain. There is reward for the honest workman, and approval of patient perseverance ; but he who is continually finding fault with things, becomes unhappy himself, and causes those around him to regard him as a grumbler and not to appreciate his company. If a man performs his duty to the best of his ability, then he may fairly hope to succeed ; but if there be indifference as to what is required to be done, then there is no question that the result will not be satisfactory. The attention of some men to their work is such that there is every probability of their doing well. These are not turned aside from the path of duty, and at last win the victory.

Harry was resolved patiently to perform the several obligations which devolved upon him, and he felt assured of an honourable career. It might be that he would not make great progress ; but if he could have the goodwill of those people who resided in the immediate neighbourhood, and had the certainty of their willingness to aid him in any case of emergency, he was content to leave the rest with a higher power, but he would neglect no opportunity of faithfully acting his part. He had in mind the old saying, that ' Provi-

dence helps those who help themselves ;' and he thought that he ought not to waste his time, but do the best under the circumstances. There were some people who differed from Harry in their methods of working. They thought that they could make as much advancement by giving occasional attention to their duties as they could by patiently following them ; but the result soon undeceived them, for they found that if they did not attend to their business a loss was sure to be sustained ; the crops were liable to failure, and the herds would go astray. There is no royal road to success in farming, and, if every effort be not made, then it is not surprising that progress is not assured. Harry had come to a decision on the subject, and, so far as he was concerned, he was determined that he would not render himself liable to the charge of indifference, but that he would carefully consider what he ought to do, and then in a brave manner perform his part. It is imperative that every attention should be paid to the several duties peculiar to the farmer, and Harry acted accordingly. When we take leave of him he is known far and wide as heroic and honest Harry Wilson.

THE END.

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